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NOTES

BY

SIR ROBERT HERON, BARONET.

SECOND EDITION.

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Should any person take the trouble to read these Notes, he will find anecdotes which may amuse him, and facts which may be new to him ; but he will also find opinions with which he may not concur. It should be considered, however, that they are the honest and disinterested result of careful reflection. As I have always respected the opinions of others, I think I may claim that mine should be treated with indulgence.

September, 1851.



NOTES.

Parliament was dissolved on the 30th Sept.
last, and I was returned for Grimsby,
Nov. 18, 1812. Oct. 6. Lord Yarborough, who, after
immense sums of money thrown away, had
lost the borough by bad management, though
he possessed an overruling property in it, and
even a considerable popularity amongst its
inhabitants, had, at length, determined to a-
bandon it. At this moment, a common friend
proposed that I should offer myself on his in-
terest : the proposal suited both : my ignorance
of the premises was taken advantage of by Mr.
Grant's agent, a cunning and foolish man, to
forward his interested objects, but I escaped
from his hands better and more speedily than
might have been expected. With Mr. Grant
himself I should not have had any difficulty.
I did not adopt any one of the usual arts and
tricks of canvassing. I told every one who

asked me, the whole truth as to my principles, political or religious, and am confirmed in my opinion, that, ultimately, it is the most profitable, as it must be allowed to be the only honorable, mode. I must do myself the justice to say, that all those who were concerned for me, assured me such conduct would ruin me : it has, however, hitherto appeared, that my simplicity of manner and conversation has been perfectly approved at Grimsby. Thus, I have at length attained one of my greatest objects ; it remains to be seen whether it was worth the gaining. The efforts of one individual must be always disappointed, unless his talents are very considerable. My mode of speaking has been very successful in the country, but there, what opponents, what foils !

In parliament, to be brilliant, to argue with force, to reply with effect, require powers which I do not possess, or experience which it is too late to attain. The utmost, then, I can permit myself to hope, is, that I may occasionally deliver my opinions in a plain and manly manner, without becoming ridiculous.

I am fully convinced I might have sat for the county, but a contest was certain. I was too ignorant of the strength of the enemy, to calculate its duration or expense ; and I ought

not to repent having declined it, though, I believe, nothing but the fears and entreaties of my Uncle would have induced me to do so.

The parliamentary returns are completed.

Nov. 23. Opposition is said rather to have gained than lost in numbers, but the principal success has been obtained by the partisans of Lord Wellesley and Canning. The latter will probably soon join the Administration; the former is said to incline towards opposition; but what dependence can be placed on men, the profligacy of whose public conduct sets all principle, but that of self interest, at defiance.

In the summer of 1812, the war was renewed

Jan. 23, 1813. between France and Russia. The latter power had been driven to the

necessity of making peace, by the almost entire conquest of Austria, the subjection of Prussia, and the abandonment of her interests by this country: for the British Ministers, having most impolitickly sent an army to convert the Spanish settlements in South America from friends into enemies, were unable to give any effectual assistance to Russia, already defeated in a great battle. But Bonaparte requiring Alexander to join with him, for the ruin of British commerce, in measures which must also have destroyed the resources of Russia, was met by

a reluctant refusal, and he immediately determined on invasion.

Having taken possession of Prussia, and increased his immense army by allies from Poland, Switzerland, and Italy, and by unwilling auxiliaries from Austria, Prussia, and Germany, he entered Russia with a host of veteran warriors, probably falling little short of four hundred thousand men, commanded by the ablest Generals in the world, and furnished in the most ample manner with artillery, stores, and ammunition. In his rear, new armies were daily organising, and new magazines continually forming. To meet this overwhelming force, Alexander had only to oppose a beaten army, vacillating counsels, Generals who inspired little confidence, and an empire thinly inhabited and unprepared. What could be rationally expected, but the ruin and subjugation of this our last powerful ally.

The results of this expedition appear to me, to constitute the most astonishing chain of events, which history, ancient and modern, has to record.

The immense empire of Russia rose in one mass, determined to make every sacrifice for independence ; not a traitor any where appeared, nor did any province, or even individual,

seem to fall short of the universal enthusiasm. The armies fought with desperation, the Generals committed no errors, not a single division was cut off, and the enemy reached Moscow enfeebled by their victories, and without having been able to make the slightest impression upon the counsels of Russia, or to have diminished the zeal or exertions of its inhabitants. At this moment, a fire, kindled probably by the policy of the Russian Governor, deprived the French of the resources they expected to derive from the possession of Moscow. After losing some precious time in fruitless attempts at negotiation, the reluctant order was given to retreat. And what a retreat! From Austria they could hope for little aid; in fact, Schwartzenburg, who had most skilfully from the beginning, avoided any considerable annoyance to the Russians, had already commenced a separate retreat. On the Prussians little reliance could be placed. A peace with Turkey had enabled Russia to interpose her southern army in the line of Bonaparte's march, and the French army, ill fed, pursued by its enemies, harrassed by the Cossacks, and even by the peasants, numbed with intense cold, and filled with despair, diminished at every step; and small indeed was the proportion of this im-

mense host which returned across the Rhine, without cannon or ammunition, too happy to have rescued their lives from horrors not to be described, and dangers scarcely to be surmounted.

In Spain, during the last summer, where every thing wore the most gloomy appearance, Marmont, by a single error, gave Lord Wellington an opportunity of gaining the battle of Salamanca ; but, instead of pursuing Marmont till he had entirely destroyed his army, he suffered him to repose and collect his forces ; whilst the English army sat down before the strong castle of Burgos, and having sustained great losses by unsuccessful assaults, it was reduced to the necessity of a rapid, disorderly, and disgraceful retreat, by which it was rendered unable to undertake any further operations. It is said, that the heavy artillery might have reached Burgos in time to have reduced the place, even in a shorter time than was expended before it. The events of Spain have lost something of their importance, for on the ultimate issue of the great contest in Germany, the fate of Spain must now entirely depend.

The Rev. Robert Heron, of Grantham, my
 Jan. 24, Uncle, is dead, at the age of 88. Like
 1813, those of his brothers, his life was

honorable and virtuous. He had little personal enjoyment from the expenditure of money, probably from having possessed but a small income until the last nineteen years of his life ; but he was always generous and benevolent. He was a most affectionate brother, and was anxious through life to do that which was just and fitting. He lived at Grantham, in a mixed society, amongst whom were a few not very respectable. Many base and interested attempts were made to injure me, and even my wife, in his esteem, but it was never withdrawn from us. He was pleased with my attentions, because he believed them to be disinterested. We lived together on the best terms, though our intercourse, excepting during his last illness, was not very frequent. He has left me the principal part of his property, greatly diminished by large and numerous legacies to his other relations.

His faithful housekeeper, Mrs. Thompson, might, without suspicion, perhaps without even dishonesty, have provided amply for herself ; but she is left poor and ill provided for ; and it was not till I had assured her that she should be made independent, that she could bring herself to inform me, that her master had told her he had left her little, because he knew she

would fall into honorable hands. This worthy woman is dying of a dropsy, in the middle age of life.

General Loft petitioned against my Col-
 March 11. league and myself. He had already owned he had nothing to allege against me, but he said he found that to petition against both Members would not be more expensive than against one. Mr. Grant attacked his qualification, and, succeeding, put an end to the petition. It came on to be heard, Feb. 16, lasted five days, and cost me £500. It cost Loft nothing, because he had nothing to pay. My Counsel were Messrs. Horner and Gifford, but they had little or nothing to do.

I took my seat Feb. 2, and first spoke on the Catholic question. I was fortunate in speaking immediately after Mr. Pretyma Tomline, who gave me a good opportunity of replying to him. What I said was exceedingly well received. A witticism, “Some with mitres *on* their heads, and some, perhaps, with mitres *in* their heads,” had a very great effect upon the House. I am doubtful, however, whether it was advantageous to me, as it gave considerable offence, and possibly took off the attention of persons from my argument, part of which was new, and, as I thought, strong,

I was complimented in their speeches by Bankes, Plunkett, and Whitbread, and privately, by Canning, who afterwards abused me publicly. I was attacked by W. Fitzgerald and Manners Sutton ; the latter, after four days consideration, declared that I could never have read the Bishop of Lincoln's Charge, as I had grossly mistated it. I was excessively alarmed, but obtaining in the House a copy of the Charge, I read the parts of it in question, and was acquitted by acclamation.

On Friday last, Cochrane Johnstone brought forward a motion respecting the Princess of Wales. He is said to have considerable talents, and certainly there appeared no deficiency of them upon his trial before a Court Martial ; but on this occasion, they were not shown. He had been a long time the day before in conversation with Lord Yarmouth ; and, for some hours before he brought forward his motion, he was in deep consultation, in the House, with Sir F. Burdett. It was very difficult to guess whether he was friendly or adverse to the Princess, and I am strongly inclined to think, his object was to have been bought off by the Prince. The latter, however, declared himself much pleased with the

intended motion, thinking it would effect his object, without his incurring the odium of first agitating the business. The effect of the debate was certainly not favorable to him. Mr. Whitbread, in defence of the Princess, exerted a very powerful eloquence. Lord Castlereagh was very weak and much irritated. Ministers are said to be divided on this, as on the Catholic question ; Lord Sidmouth's party being supposed ready to go great lengths to satisfy the Regent, but the House shows the strongest disinclination to assist them in it. Mr. C. Johnstone was to have brought forward his motion on the preceding day, but Mr. Lygon, contrary to the general wish, moved to have the gallery cleared. Mr. Bennet then moved to adjourn, which was negatived on a division. The latter threatened to renew his motion, but gave it up after an angry debate, in which C. J. pledged himself to bring forward his motion next day. On the next day, the gallery was cleared on the motion of Mr. Vyse. For what useful purpose ? Half a dozen members immediately went into it to take notes, and the debate was given to the public more accurately than usual.

There is, certainly, a great deficiency of oratory in the House of Commons, and per-

haps, this is the reason there are so many speakers. Plunkett, on the Catholic question, exhibited a peculiar eloquence which astonished me: without manner, without elegant language, or even choice of words, without ornament of any kind, he poured forth, for nearly four hours, in the most rapid manner, a torrent of argument which seemed absolutely irresistible. Grattan is elegant and persuasive; Whitbread, always shrewd and powerful; though sometimes coarse, and often deficient in taste and judgment. These instruct the House, but it is most delighted with Canning; and that very circumstance gives him boldness, and enables him to delight it more. Brilliant wit, the most cutting personal satire, often mixed with buffoonery, but always delivered in elegant language, and with action particularly suited to it, these are his excellencies. His speeches, however, are got up with much labor and study: an immense quantity of hoarded quotations must soon be exhausted by the enormous consumption; there may not always be sufficient opportunity for the satire, and the public will then find time to observe the almost total want of argument. Manners Sutton and Robinson have some talents for speaking, and will probably improve. Ponsonby

speaks like a gentleman, generally tame ; he sometimes rises above himself. After these, there is nothing at present worth notice.

The subject of the Princess of Wales, repeatedly brought before Parliament,
London, March 24. has puzzled Ministers, exposed the Royal Family, and completely disgusted the public : possibly the issue may have been rather favorable, than otherwise, to the Princess. Whitbread has made some powerful speeches in her favor, but for want of communicating with well judging friends, he committed the great error of producing Mrs. Lisle's account of her evidence, in a Letter to the Princess of Wales, in which it was evidently softened, to contradict the evidence itself, (at least to invalidate it), given on oath before the Commissioners appointed for the enquiry. Lord Ellenborough, the next day, in the House of Lords, attacked Whitbread in language worthy only of Billingsgate : this intemperance gave Whitbread a great advantage, and alone enabled him to make good his retreat.

I spoke last night on finance. Five or six
March 26. persons had obtained the preference.

The House was tired. I was not sufficiently master of my subject, was alarmed, confused, and failed.

The House of Commons appears to me more
 April 4. fair and candid than for many years ;
 and Ministers may find this to their
 cost, when they least expect it. In consequence of a general opinion that, from the dangerous state of the King's health, the duration of the Parliament was likely to be short, many of the political jobbers did not think it worth while to procure seats ; and a large proportion was, in consequence, returned of those who have no selfish object. Canning, notwithstanding, has gained. Ward, Lord Kennington, several East Indians, and others, have joined him ; profligate and false in his politics, he is industrious and cunning, but he must now sink into insignificance. Lord Moira has lost his consequence, must I say, his character ? His abilities were probably rated too high ; his negotiations to form an Administration were weak and contemptible ; his zeal for the Regent, aided probably by the difficulties into which he has been plunged by his unbounded extravagance, has led him into still greater errors.

At the sale of the late Lord Gainsborough's books, I got the original drawings of Patterson, at the Cape of Good Hope, 3 vols., folio, for £23., made for the late King. The next day,

the town was more aware of the value of the articles. On that day, Grainger's Lives, illustrated by Lord Gainsborough, were bought by White, from Paris, for £157.; and Lord Bute's Botanical work, of which only twelve copies were printed, by Mr. Borrourghs, at Oxford, for £83.; but I obtained the miniature of Jesus Christ, on lapis lazuli, by Guido, for sixteen guineas. Two men had come down from London on purpose to buy it, but they could not discover it in a dirty shagreen case.

I had determined to make some additions to my house, for which a plan had been agreed upon, between Mr. Jeffrey Wyatt and myself; but, on beginning to put it into execution, everything appertaining to the old house was found in so ruinous a state, that it would have been very imprudent to have suffered it to form a part of the new plan. Jeffrey Wyatt was accordingly again sent for, and after three day's deliberation, and taking many plans into consideration, we have fixed upon one which promises to be both convenient and handsome.

The Duke of Cumberland is gone suddenly to the Continent, no one knows why or where, bearing with him universal contempt and detestation.

What an anxious moment? A desperate

battle has been fought at Lutzen, in which, I fear, the French have gained the advantage. Yet their brave enemies, obliged to yield to numbers, but protected by a numerous cavalry, have lost neither cannon, ensigns, prisoners, nor honor. The Russians, too, appear to have had few troops in the battle, which affords hope for the future. What will now be the policy of Austria and Sweden? Can they hesitate? On their decision the fate of Europe probably depends.

At length, on the 24th., the Catholic Bill
 May 26. went into a Committee of the whole House. The delay of a fortnight had been consumed by Lord Castlereagh, Grattan, and Canning, in forming a bill, in which each sacrificed something to the opinion of the others. I confess I do not like the fruits of their labours, because the restrictions with which they have loaded the measure, appear to me to be unjust, nugatory, and irritating; nor can I understand the fairness of interfering with the patronage of their clerical establishment, when we do not contribute to its support; yet, even this qualified measure is far better than none. The delay has given time for our opposers to recover from their panic; and, certainly, they have made good use of their time. The Prince

has made every possible exertion to defeat the bill, and the most profligate intrigues have been carried on. Many Members, who before supported, have now voted on the other side; but, probably, the delay could not have been avoided.

The opposition to the bill was led by the Speaker, in a violent, inflammatory, and injudicious speech, to which Whitbread replied with due severity. Canning and Lord Castlereagh spoke well, and contrary to their usual manner the first was argumentative, and the last, animated and decisive. The Court determined to try its strength on the first clause, that for admitting Catholics into Parliament. The decisive moment arrived, and we were beaten by 251 to 247. Grattan immediately threw up the bill. Lord Rancliffe gave notice of a motion for reform of Parliament, founded on the proof of corruption, which this night had afforded. Satisfied with the opportunity it gave him of stating his grounds, he probably will not proceed further at a time when there would not be the slightest hope of success to the measure.

The India question has been compromised.

Stubton,
June 30. The Directors, seeing their opposition was wholly fruitless, and having no

ally but Tierney, accepted a renewal of their charter, for twenty years, with the monopoly of the China trade, giving up their exclusive trade to the Peninsula. The Saints, too, obtained a clause favorable to their missionary objects, which Lord Castlereagh, at the same time he granted it, hoped to defeat, by putting it under the control of the Directors. Thus ended this great national question, in half measures, the natural fruits of weak and vacillating counsels.

The Allies have concluded an armistice with Bonaparte, to afford time for a Congress to settle a general peace. This armistice puts an end to all immediate hopes of insurrection in Germany, and may give the French an opportunity of taking measures to render it less probable hereafter. The Russians will also find great difficulty in maintaining their German army, unless, indeed, it is to be paid by England. All depends upon the conduct of Austria; should she lose this opportunity of making common cause with the Allies, she must, in all probability, fight alone against France, in two years, for her independence; but if, as appears most probable, she think it necessary to preserve the appearance of consistency, by a real or pretended effort to bring about a general

peace, the Allies cannot, prudently, refuse to enter into her views. From a conference between the three Emperors, good Lord deliver us.

From Spain, we may now every day expect important intelligence: it is true, the fate of Spain must be decided in Germany; yet, a splendid and decisive victory in Spain, might be felt in its effects, far beyond the bounds of the Peninsula.

It is now sufficiently evident, that neither
June 5,
1813. France nor the Allies intended peace. When both sides had recruited their armies, the war was renewed; Austria and Sweden openly joined the Allies, and Moreau arrived from America to assist in their operations. It is said to have been by his advice, that an attempt was made by the Allies, and principally by Austria, to surprise Dresden. It was attended by the total defeat of the Austrian army, with immense loss; yet, this event, which threatened ruin to the cause, has been more unfavourable in its consequences to the French. Fearing to be surrounded in Dresden, Bonaparte left an army in it, and retired to Leipsic. Here, relying too much upon success, he appears to have made no provision to repair a disaster; at length, after many actions, which

lose their importance only when compared to the last, and in all of which he seems to have been unsuccessful, he fought the battle of Leipsic, one of the greatest and most decisive recorded in history. It was decided by the defection of the Bavarians and Saxons, who went over in a body to the Allies, and after prolonging the combat to the third day, the French Emperor was under the necessity of adopting the measure of a precipitate flight, with the remnant of his broken army. I know not whether most to admire the great military talents displayed by Schwartzenburg in this battle, and the maneuvering which led to it, or the modesty and good sense shown by the allied Kings and Princes in serving cordially under his command. Schwartzenburg has, indeed, been blamed for ordering Blucher, when pursuing the French after the battle, to turn off towards Cologne. We are too apt to judge from events : surely it was a just reasoning to suppose that the French, ruined by a precipitate retreat, and finding in its front a Bavarian army which had not been in action, would attempt to cross the Rhine where no opposition was to be expected. Had this happened, the measure of Schwartzenburg would have been thought the masterpiece of a consummate Gen-

eral. Bonaparte anticipated this policy, and therefore resolved, at all events, to cut his way through the army of Bavaria.

The English nation, proud, jealous, and unsocial towards other nations, always supposes insincerity and treason ; even now, when the Allies have fought with a valour and self abandonment beyond all former example ; when success has been beyond hope ; this nation is beginning to be dissatisfied with Austria. Much more reason, I fear, have the Allies, and particularly Austria, to be dissatisfied with us. Not to mention that the Government papers are again talking of setting up the Bourbons, and avowing the flagitious principle of interfering with the internal government of other nations ; to whom, but to the British Court, can Austria ascribe the late usurpation of a new title, by the Prince of Orange. If there be any meaning in the title of Sovereign Prince of the Netherlands, it must include the Austrian Low Countries. If the Prince had only wished for an increase of the executive power, he might in the present circumstances, have easily obtained it from the free suffrages of the Dutch, instead of sowing the seeds of future mischief, by assuming it without authority ; but if it be, as is supposed, the act of Carlton House, the

country (both countries) had a right to expect something more than neutrality from the British Cabinet.

The Allies are without pecuniary resources, and we must furnish them all with enormous sums. It is true that such a moment was not to be neglected; yet, if the war should continue for two or three more campaigns, can the ruin, total ruin, of our finances be avoided? Perhaps, even this consequence might be better than to risk the independence of the Continent, and it is for this reason that I am one of many, who rather consent to leave every thing at this period to the discretion of Ministers, than to interfere with the vigor for which, on the present occasion, we must at least give them credit. Of peace I have no immediate hope. Will the French Emperor give up Italy? Can or ought the Allies to yield it? This alone seems decisive against it.

For a good many years I have attended to
 January, the habits of peafowl; and for the last
 1814. eleven, have written down observations relating to them. I find the individuals to differ in temper and attachment to their own young ones, as much, almost, as human beings. Some have been willing to take care of the young ones of others, whilst some have pursued

and killed them, whether they had a brood of their own or not. Some cocks have assisted in the care of young ones, whilst others have attacked them. One cock is amply sufficient for six hens ; nor have I found the having but one, either to delay the period of the different hatchings, or to lessen the number of the broods.

The hens most often produce in June, and if the first brood be destroyed at an early period, still more if the next be destroyed before hatching, another brood is generally produced. The second brood is often equally numerous with the first. An early hen frequently has a brood herself the next year. Age makes no difference in the number of the brood ; I have had six from one a year old, and one from an old one. The hens have frequently a great preference to a particular cock. They were all so fond of an old pied cock, that one year, when he was confined and in view, they were constantly assembled close to the trellis walls of his prison, and would not suffer a japanned cock to touch them. On his being let out late in the Autumn, the oldest of the hens instantly courted him, and obtained the proofs of his love in my presence. The next year, he was shut up in a stable, and the hens then all courted his rival ; for the advances amongst these animals

are always made by the female. My peafowl were so frequently carried off by foxes, that I have not yet been able to ascertain the natural period of their lives. This evil is now in great measure remedied by the formation of a menagerie, in which they all choose to roost at night. A hen at Lord St. John's died apparently of old age at 23. By the japped, I mean that breed of which the whole body is blue or green, of a dark shade, without a brown or speckled feather in any part of the animal, (this of the cock): the hen is of a bad pigeon colour, or like a very light coloured turkey; the young ones are at first white. There is strong reason to believe that this very remarkable variety originated in England.

In Lord Brownlow's numerous flock of common white and pied, the japped suddenly appeared within my memory, and without any strangers having ever, for a great length of time, been received; and it has since increased. In Sir John Trevelyan's flock of perfectly plain peafowl, the same circumstance occurred, and this breed has prevailed over the common. The same consequence has followed in a breed Mrs. Thoroton had from Lady Chatham, and from which mine originated. Notwithstanding their origin, they appear more tender than the

common. I find them more difficult to rear, and several in two of the broods I have mentioned, which are near me, as well as in mine, were killed by the last winter, which did not happen to the others.

The peafowl succeed best where least attention is paid to feeding them, provided there are plantations thick at bottom for them to prowl in ; for feeding them takes them off from their natural food of insects, and by keeping them about the buildings, makes them more liable to have their young ones destroyed by dogs and foxes.

We have had a most severe frost of something more than a month. The wind Stubton,
Jan. 20, 1814. is now South and the snow rapidly diminishing. The snow never much exceeded an average of six inches. In most parts of the British Islands it has been deeper than ever remembered, particularly in the West of England, where it interrupted all communication. Many accidents have occurred, and the London post did not reach us for three days together. My day and night thermometer was once in the night as low as $2\frac{1}{2}$ Fahrenheit. The poor have suffered dreadfully, though my constant communication with the poor of this neighbourhood, as a Magistrate, has given me the satis-

faction of believing that they have no where suffered less : here they have never wanted employment.

I employ many labourers in my farm and gardens ; those in the latter, (excepting two or three in whom skill is necessary, and several also in the former,) receive no more than the wages of the country : on the other hand a constant labourer of mine is never discharged, unless for misconduct, and almost all of them have good gardens, and land enough to keep a cow, at a low rate.

My wife employs all the women of decent character in our four villages, who choose it, in spinning ; the stuff is then wove and bleached in the same district ; what is wanted for our own use is taken, and the remainder given amongst the poor. This whole establishment has never exceeded the expense of forty guineas, and I am persuaded produces more benefit than might be obtained by five times the expenditure : the practice originated with my father. I have generally found, that to give amongst the labouring class, too often creates idleness ; to lend, or to bestow, as the price of labour or exertion, generally encourages industry. I never give to those who go about on pretence of having lost cows, and I suffer no

man on my estate to adopt so humiliating a practice. My usual plan with those who have any claim upon me, is, to lend what is wanted without interest ; and neither in that case, or any other of the little similar loans which I willingly make amongst the labouring class, have I ever scarcely met with any other principle, than the honorable anxiety to repay me as soon as possible. Why do men so frequently complain of the ingratitude of the labouring class, and of servants ? No doubt sometimes with reason, but I am convinced they much oftener complain, most unjustly, of want of gratitude where no favour has been granted. Between a good master and good servant the obligation is mutual.

How enormous is the expense of building ! In January last, I had expended £7000 ; my house was, indeed, covered in, but that was all. My farm, this year, for the first time, turns out a losing concern. It is tolerably well managed, and with perfect integrity, but our arrangements of buying and selling the different sorts of corn were not well timed ; and a terrible malady has, for two years, afflicted the cows, who all produce dead calves. Every possible remedy has been tried in vain, and we must now entirely renew the herd, which was a re-

markably good one. It is a singular circumstance, that this disorder should be usually found to be contagious amongst cows.

I have not yet attended this Session of Parliament. There was in fact nothing
 February. to do. All agreed that every exertion must now be made to prosecute the war to an honorable termination, and none of the measures of Ministers have met with any opposition. They have, however, committed a great error in their scheme for recruiting the army. The Militia was every where ready to volunteer to go to Spain. Ministers hastily offered to accept the men, either individually for the time, or collectively as Militia, to serve in bodies together abroad, under their own officers: almost all preferred the latter. In the mean time it was recollected, that this mode would burthen the army with an immense dead weight of useless officers; an attempt was made to check it, the men were offended, and the measure totally failed.

France is invaded on all sides. The Allies preceded their invasion by proclamations disowning all selfish objects, and offering to leave France greater than under any of her Kings. They seem to have expected, that this offer, vague as it is, would be refused, and are appa-

rently a little embarrassed by the readiness of Bonaparte to accept it ; probably neither party is sincere, and the war must continue, at least, till the fate of Italy is decided ; mean while, scarcely any resistance is offered by the French in the field. Are their armies really annihilated, or are they reserved for some great and decisive effort ? Again the Bourbons are talked of. Can the French wish their return ? Ought we to wish it ? If imposed upon the French by force, the example would be dreadful to Europe.

The Austrian Court is now said to be well satisfied with our prompt and vigorous cooperation, and an Ambassador is at length on his road from Vienna.

The loss of the Austrians in the tremendous battle of Dresden, turns out to have been greater than even stated by the French ; not less, I believe, than 40,000. Vandamme being sent in pursuit, with the promise of the whole of Bonaparte's army to support him, if necessary, there was reason to fear the entire destruction of the Austrian army. Blucher having at that time defeated the left wing of the French, the King of Prussia saw, at once, that Bonaparte could not move ; he immediately, contrary, it is said, to the advice of his Gene-

rals, ordered the whole of his disposable force to attack Vandamme. The latter, cut off, was obliged to surrender with his entire division, and the Austrian army thus saved from destruction, returned and retook the whole of their artillery, which had remained in the bad roads where they were taken.

The Regent has been to Belvoir to stand as Sponsor to the Marquess of Granby. After visiting the nobility on the line of his progress, his reception at Belvoir was most royal; and on the day of the christening he got most royally drunk, but being accustomed to that amusement, went to bed without much exposing himself. How easy is it for a King of England to be popular! How completely is the mob duped by the splendour, or rather, by the imaginary ideas they attach to royalty. The Regent had, certainly, sunk very low in the general estimation. He has shown himself, and wherever he has been seen he is popular. Something, indeed, may be attributed to the late and unexpected successes of the war; and I am afraid his profligate apostacy from liberality and toleration to the Catholics, is by no means offensive to the nation.

The fate of General Moreau, and the approbation given to his character and conduct, give

rise to reflections. Moreau appears to have possessed a very amiable disposition, and to have been much beloved by those about him; nor can great military talents be denied him; but there is nothing to be found in him of the patriot, and little of the hero. He figures in the Revolution as a Republican, and resents the assumption of the supreme power by Bonaparte. Brought to trial for a conspiracy, he is convicted and condemned. He admits the justness of his sentence, implores pardon, and receives it. After this, instead of remaining in his retirement in America, he joins the ranks of the Allied Sovereigns, and dies in arms against his country. He had no party, no hope of establishing a Republic, no motive which I can discover, but those of personal resentment, or personal interest.

Arbuthnot, of the Treasury, was well acquainted with Pichegru; the latter
 Feb. 6. was in correspondence with Moreau, and returned to France in consequence of a communication with a person in the confidence of Moreau, and whom the latter had sent over to invite him. The timid conspirator afterwards withdrew his cooperation, and abandoned Pichegru to his fate.

On the first invasion of Russia, Alexander

sent a confidential officer to Bonaparte, offering to agree to all his demands, except that of receiving French Douaniers in his sea-ports. This he said he could not consent to, as it would rouse the indignation of his subjects, and probably cost him his life ; but he offered to engage, that the Russian Douaniers should conform to the orders of the French Emperor : the latter replied, that such an offer would have satisfied him a week sooner, but now he must march forward, and would negotiate as he advanced. The General, who has brought the Russian order to the Regent, declares that he was the messenger of Alexander on this occasion. At the beginning of the war, Alexander visited the head-quarters of several of his armies. Intending to go to those of Witgenstein, he observed to the officer who accompanied him, that the postilions were taking the wrong road ; he was then informed that his Generals had thought it essential to his service that he should return to Petersburg. He quietly acquiesced, and appeared no more with the armies, until after the ruin of the French invasion. The Archduke Constantine (the Russian Duke of Cumberland) was found far more troublesome with the armies. The Commander in Chief, Barkly de Tolly, one day

presented him with a paper on which was written, "I quit the Army," and informed him, that His Royal Highness must decide which of them should sign it. The Prince obeyed.

The Allies are said to have guaranteed the old Constitution of Switzerland. What right have they to guarantee the constitution of any country? They should guarantee its independence, and leave its constitution to itself. Those who ruined, massacred, and divided Poland, first guaranteed its wretched constitution, to ensure the duration of its weakness and intestine divisions.

I had a good deal of conversation with Crabbe, the poet: he does justice to Lord Byron. This man, Lord Byron, astonishes me. Never yet did any man so happily unite the most sublime poetical fire, with the truth of nature. How far behind him is Walter Scott, great even as the latter is in many parts of the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, and the battle in *Marmion*. We must go back to Dryden for a rival to Lord Byron.

Crabbe acknowledged that he had no ear whatever for music. Fox, Burke, Pitt, and Wyndham, were in the same predicament. Bishop Watson, amongst a very few books he recommended to the particular attention of the last Duke of Rutland, named Bacon as the first.

For three months, Bonaparte, with an army of less than sixty thousand men, kept at bay the whole of the Allied forces. He seems to have committed a great error in leaving behind him so many large garrisons in fortresses which could not long be defended; but he fought with desperate valor, maneuvered with astonishing rapidity, and generally has been successful since he was driven within his own frontiers. In Schwartzenburg, however, he found a skilful prudence which gave no opportunities to the enemy; and when he had beaten old Blucher, and his Prussians, half a dozen times, their obstinate bravery did not leave him at all the more at rest. All this time, the negotiations continued, and Bonaparte might have obtained a peace which would have left him at liberty to recruit his strength, and soon to take the field again: instead of this, he made a desperate effort and got into the rear of his enemies; but they, instead of returning, marched directly for Paris. Even this was provided for. The Parisians fought with determined courage, and would certainly have defended the Capital till their Emperor, in another day, had fallen upon the rear of the Allies, had not the contest been yielded by the weakness or cowardice of Joseph Bonaparte, and the treason of Marmont. The

latter, under pretence of saving Paris, deserted his master with the only army he possessed, that had not been almost worn out with fatigue. Bonaparte found himself surrounded by his enemies, and obliged to abandon his throne. The Senate, for some time divided, declares for the Bourbons ; and thus is accomplished a revolution as extraordinary as any of those which have preceded it. It is the fashion here to suppose that Talleyrand had long planned this change. For my own part, I do not believe that any man foresaw it three days before it arrived, but Talleyrand took care to avail himself of it, and stands forward as the effective Minister of France. The Allied Sovereigns are extolled for not destroying or plundering Paris, which was not in their power, and of which the attempt would, probably, have been fatal to their cause. They deserve credit for their humanity to the individuals in their power, and it is certainly an extraordinary part of the increased morality and humanity of modern times, that not one of the numerous family of Bonaparte, which has usurped so many crowns, should have suffered the slightest personal injury from the indignation of those whom they have oppressed or ruined. Napoleon may rise again ; no doubt he will preserve

in Elba a few troops, and a large sum of money ready for the auspicious moment. In Paris, in the greater part of France, he is still admired, and will soon be regretted. The whole of the army is with him. The Bourbon Princes are weak in intellect, and Louis XVIII, who had rather more talents than the rest, has changed, during his misfortunes, a cold and cheerless depravity into a degrading superstition, or perhaps, has added the latter to the former.

In the mean time, the Crown Prince of Sweden demands to be put in possession of Norway, which, in defiance of their proclamations, the Allied Sovereigns had engaged to give him ; and in which, in spite of all political morality, and natural justice, our Ministers had concurred. The brave Norwegians betrayed at home, and deserted abroad, are obliged to yield to unrelenting force.

Lord Cochrane, a man who had served with
 May. brilliant success in the navy, and his
 Uncle, and Cochrane Johnstone, are convicted in the Court of King's Bench of a most infamous conspiracy to defraud the public, by propagating a falsehood. They are expelled the House of Commons, where, however, Lord Cochrane makes an able defence, and, unfortunately, gains credit with some of the

Opposition. Here, again, the violence of Lord Ellenborough injures the cause he espouses. The Electors of Westminster take part with, and re-elect their Member ; new proofs, however, have since convinced the doubtful, and morality will not be scandalized by the re-admission of Lord Cochrane into society. This man was not privy to the plot till the morning of its execution, but he then, unfortunately, plunged into guilt. The history of his Uncle is romantic. Elegant, handsome, and accomplished, he began life by an early marriage with the beautiful daughter of Lord Hopetoun, heir-ess of the house of Annandale. In a short period, her death was followed by that of her only child. He then followed his military profession, and became Governor of Dominica ; here he was probably guilty of an atrocious breach of faith. He found the Island in insurrection, and, having obtained the principal fortress by capitulation, he put the ringleaders to death ; which, certainly, was not one of the articles of the treaty. For this he was not called to account, but was tried for employing soldiers in draining the marshes of the Island, and, though it was proved that he had no permanent advantage from the measure, though he was acquitted of all moral guilt by the Court,

the Judge Advocate thought proper to asperse his character, by a note in the King's name, and he was passed over in the next promotion. The Judge Advocate, Sir C. Morgan, was blamed, resigned, and lost a Peerage which had been granted him; yet Cochrane Johnstone was not restored, and it is supposed, the Commander in Chief was prejudiced against him, from thinking he had views contrary to the interests of his country. He had at that time married Mademoiselle de Clugny, a near relation of Madame Bonaparte, a West Indian, beautiful and rich. Cochrane Johnstone had been at Paris, where he wished to obtain the post of Commissioner for English prisoners of war, that he might have an opportunity of prosecuting the restoration of his wife's fortune, which had been confiscated during the Revolution. Obligated to return to England, he left his wife at Paris, where she regained her property; but Bonaparte informed her that her husband was disgraced, and she was at length persuaded to consent to a divorce, was declared a Napoleon Princess, and married to some great foreigner. Cochrane Johnstone, always full of resources, made a very successful speculation in Merino sheep, from Spain. He went to South America and engaged amongst the

mines. The South Americans raised an immense sum for the purchase of the liberty of the Pope, and Cochrane Johnstone was entrusted with the negotiation. Bonaparte is said to have consented, but, probably, meant to have the money, and keep the Pope. Neither party would trust the other, and thus the negotiation ended. Cochrane Johnstone has fled from England with the insolence of avowed guilt, to seek new adventures in new climates.

Upon the peace with France immense quantities of corn were instantly poured into this country, at a very low price : and our Farmers, loaded with taxes, could no longer obtain a price for their corn sufficient to reimburse their expenses. The necessity of encouraging agriculture by checking importation was generally felt, and a measure for that purpose was brought in by Sir H. Parnell, assisted by our ablest country Gentlemen in the House of Commons, and afterwards amended by Huskinson. Delay was, above all things, to be deprecated, but our feeble Chancellor of the Exchequer, Vansittart, immediately yielded to the first wish for delay. G. Rose published a vulgar, lying pamphlet on the subject. The Manufacturers, utterly incapable of understanding the question, took the alarm. Their

Representatives were controlled, many others were frightened, and nothing was done ; in the mean time, the evil has rapidly increased and must be remedied. The Lincolnshire Farmers, particularly in the Fens, have not only been distressed by the totally inadequate price of corn ; many of them have suffered deeply by the breaking of Sheath's, Barnard's, Bellairs' and other Banks, and the gaols are crowded with them.

The building of my house continues. I
 Jan. 1815. have finished the *conservatory, 60 feet by 20, 21 high, adjoining to the house. It is, certainly, a beautiful thing ; nothing of the kind ever gave so much satisfaction, and it is planted with a most choice collection of plants. A conservatory is of rather late invention, and it is probably because Jeffery Wyatt and I had seen so few, that we succeeded so well, our imaginations not being restrained by servile imitation.

Why could not the principal features of the great Continental arrangements have been settled at Paris ? It is true, they must have been settled hastily, but they would then have been, probably, conformable to the great prin-

* Many have since been built, to which mine cannot even be compared.

ciples avowed, and we should have been saved the ruinous expense which has been continued ever since; and, perhaps, now they will be settled in no other mode than by every one seizing what he thinks himself strong enough to keep. What are we to think of the magnanimous Alexander taking possession of Poland, Prussia, of Saxony, and all, like the making over of Norway to Sweden, without consulting the wishes of the people: thus, the great Alliance, formed for the defence of the independence of nations, ends in the most unqualified disregard to those principles to which its success was chiefly due. We must acknowledge there is no political morality in Europe. If we turn to Spain, our miserable disappointment only increases. I had always hoped well of Ferdinand. I knew, indeed, that he was weak; but I knew, also, he had been entirely governed by the Duke de L'Infantado, a liberal and virtuous patriot. I did not blame his journey to Bayonne, because I thought he could take no other step. At that time, Bonaparte had privately acknowledged him; the Prince of Peace, his father's Prime Minister, had plotted against his life, after poisoning his Princess; the French were in military possession of Spain; and Ferdinand, if he refused to repair

to Bayonne, had neither a fortress to which he could retire, nor an armed force to defend his person : besides, it might be well expected, that the French Emperor might begin to think it well to respect the persons of Princes, and be satisfied with leaving Ferdinand the name of King. It was not till Ferdinand had been basely and treacherously imprisoned, that any resistance appeared in Spain ; then, indeed, it blazed out with a noble fury, and, as far as the people are concerned, has been maintained with a courage and constancy beyond all example. At last, when fortunate events have placed the beloved Ferdinand on the throne, he throws himself into the arms of the few whom the French suffered to be about him in his prison, repeals every thing that had been done to amend the condition of his country, renews the Inquisition, persecutes every patriot, and every man who really endeavoured to maintain his authority during his misfortunes. By his worthless conduct, he has already lost America, and, for the good of mankind, it is to be hoped will soon lose himself.

If we look to Italy, we shall see Genoa garrisoned by an English force, under pretence of preserving its liberties, and then surrendered by our Government to Sardinia, without the

pretence of justice. Italy is desirous of forming one united State, but it will continue to be parcelled out as before : yet, if a patriot and a hero were to arise in that country, it wants not soldiers, and might regulate its own destiny. At Rome, the Pope, who in his misfortunes attracted, by his courage and prudence, the admiration of Europe, is returned to disappoint it, by a superstition worthy of the fourteenth Century. There, too, we have the singular spectacle of a brother of Bonaparte, the flatterer of the Pope, rewarded with a Papal principality. His Poem of Charlemagne has, certainly, considerable poetic merit, though I am astonished at the little pleasure I received in reading it. Some of the descriptions, are fine, but the subject is heavy though well managed ; the hero detestable. One is revolted at finding the two Brutus' amongst the damned, and still more, at the gross superstition which pervades the work, and which one can hardly believe to be even sincere.

The Widow of my excellent and generous Uncle, Sir R. Heron, died in October, at 92 years of age. She had survived herself. By her death, I inherit some property of Sir R's, besides some valuable pictures, glasses, china ware, books, and plate.

In the last Spring, England was honored with the presence, for some time, of the Emperor Alexander, the King of Prussia, four Prussian Princes, many of the most illustrious Russian and Prussian Generals, and of the Hereditary Prince of Orange. Satisfied with their renown, the Monarchs despised the pomp which pleases vulgar minds, and delighted, particularly Alexander, in mixing in society, when permitted to do so, as private individuals. He went to balls, sometimes unattended, and always danced with Lady Jersey and Mrs. Arbuthnot, sometimes, also, with others. His countenance is open and his manners simple and pleasing. He wished to see the Opposition, and Lords Grenville and Grey, Whitbread, Wilberforce, and some others, were desired to wait upon him. He did not listen, but talked much. He said the Opposition was a glass in which Sovereigns should see themselves, and that when he returned, he would organise an *Opposition in Russia*. This Emperor is certainly not wise. He is, at present entirely governed by his sister, the Duchess of Oldenburgh, who is said to have married her late husband to avoid the necessity of marrying Bonaparte. The King of Prussia is very handsome, as are also the young Princes. He

appears sensible but melancholy, having never recovered from the loss of his Queen.

The people pushed their curiosity to the impertinence of calling to the Emperor to shew himself at the windows ; when, however, Blucher had appeared, no one else was thought of, and the Kings and Princes might repose. They went to see every thing. They were entertained with the utmost magnificence. All London was kept in a state of total idleness, and, as if this relaxation had not been sufficient, fêtes were continued for a long time, and at an immense expense, by the Regent, after the departure of the Sovereigns.

The Hereditary Prince of Orange came to marry the young Princess Charlotte of Wales. He is a young man of high and amiable character. All England desired a William 4th, a man, too, who had served with distinction in our armies ; but when a message was every day expected by both Houses, the Princess altered her mind, and peremptorily refused him. It is said, she had fallen in love with one of the Prussian Princes. She appears to possess the *virtues* and *amiable qualities* of her *family*.

My Constituents having invited me to become a Vice President of their Auxiliary British and *Foreign* Bible Society, I refused,

and promised to give my reasons whenever called upon at Grimsby. I am, in principle, hostile to these Societies, because they are engines in the hands of the Methodists, and in aid of the Missionary system, a system which has caused half the miseries and half the crimes of the human race. These Constituents of mine, certainly do not give me much trouble ; they are satisfied with my never going near them but at elections, and they are totally indifferent to politics. Once, indeed, they most anxiously charged me with the negotiations relating to their haven bill. My Colleague was absent in Scotland, and the whole rested on me. I took infinite pains, offered good terms to the Haven Company, and these being refused, and finding the whole a job of the Tenynsons, for their private interests, I threw out the bill, and had the good fortune to please all parties ; it must be owned, however, that good fortune is the only word I am justified in using on the occasion.

There appears to be a strong feeling of jealousy, and even hostility, in France against the English, and their King seems not to want his full share of these sentiments. It is not surprising that he should feel some resentment against the Regent, and his Government, who,

indeed, gave him a subsistence, but showed him little attention during his misfortunes, and only oppressed him with a pompous reception, when he was already become King of France, without their aid or participation : but his marked incivility to Lord Buckingham, and other individuals, whose generous hospitality had diminished the irksomeness of his banishment, is not so easily to be either accounted for, or excused.

Lord and Lady Jersey were at Paris during
 February, the Summer, and intended proceeding
 1815. into Italy, but they were prevented
 by the earnest advice of the Minister, Talleyrand, who told Lord Jersey that Italy was on the point of being the scene of much bloodshed, and repeatedly said to him, “n’y allez pas.”

The Winter, this year, set in with the promise of great severity. Last year, my river was visited by a flock of about thirty-four wild swans, a number of very large dark and swan-like geese, and many other uncommon wild fowl, which remained with us all the Winter. These returned in November last, and have remained with us, but the Winter is notwithstanding, dissolved without any great severity, and though the frost has been long, the thermometer has never been lower than 14 Fahrenheit, and, in general, about the freezing

point. Can any one doubt the progressive but great change which has taken place in our climate? What are its causes? Probably, the principal cause, (or should we rather call it the consequence?) is the vast accumulation of ice about the Polar Region, which has totally cut off the communication with Greenland, and has rendered Iceland scarcely habitable. I have, sometimes, been inclined to attribute the increased coldness of our Summers, in some measure, to this country being now universally intersected with hedges of the white thorn, which cannot but evaporate an immense quantity of moisture; a much greater quantity, probably, than large masses of wood; because, in hedges, almost every leaf is exposed to the full action of the air. As to the effects, they are chiefly felt in the want of heat in our Summers. Many plants that formerly adorned our soil, will not now bear our climate, as the *Platanus* and *Arbutus*. Vines, which formerly fruited in many parts of England, now require the protection of glass; apricots will not ripen without walls; and the peach and nectarine do not, in every Summer, arrive at perfection in the open air.*

NOTE, 1848.—* This was a very exaggerated opinion. The *Platanus* was only destroyed in one year. The *Arbutus*, with me, thrives well, and is rarely injured; and, in my garden, Peaches and Nectarines are produced in perfection, on the unheated walls. I suppose the year 1815 was an exception.

I returned from London a week before the Easter recess, a good deal indisposed, from a continuation of late hours, together with repeated colds acquired from the bad weather. We had carried on a good deal of political hostility with little success. The most important measure was the corn bill, in which I agreed with Ministers, and a great majority of the House. The mob was raised against us by the inflammatory speeches of Baring, and the false statements of the Mayor of London. I was myself attacked by the mob, and for five minutes in their hands, but I escaped from them, with no other injury than the loss of a part of my coat. The riots and destruction of houses were most disgraceful; for a single Magistrate, with twenty Constables, determined to do their duty, might easily, in my opinion, have suppressed the riot, at its commencement. Sir F. Burdett was favourable to the corn bill, but was not honest enough to avow it. He made a speech equally violent, absurd, and unjustifiable, in the House. In my opinion, the effect of the corn bill will be beneficial, as tending to encourage the growth of corn, by suppressing the importation, and, at the same time, saving to the country the enormous prices which were unnecessarily paid

to foreign countries for the article of subsistence. I do not think it will be found to raise the price of corn to an unfair height, but that it will tend to maintain it at a reasonable and more steady price. †

The night before I came away, I delivered my sentiments (on the Report of the ways and means) against the proposed war establishment during peace for four years; incidentally against the proceedings of the Congress; and above all, against the extravagance of Ministers and of the Regent; to little purpose, indeed, but with the satisfactory reflection in my own mind of having discharged my duty.

Before I left London, we had received the disagreeable news that Bonaparte had landed near Frejus, with about twelve hundred men. Our naval Commander appears to have been lulled into security; no precautions had been taken by sea or land. He seems to have been every where well received, and no part of the army could be brought to act against him. The Marshals, indeed, appear in general to have been well disposed to the established order of things, but how many of them may have joined him since he has recovered the throne, we do not yet know. The Royalists are

† My opinions on this subject have since undergone a change.

said to be attempting to form an army, and, no doubt, the Allies will immediately march against him. They have, indeed, a vast force, and as he must be unprepared, one knows not what may be accomplished by a rapid invasion, in conjunction with a powerful party in France ; but it seems to me to be the interest, and, I fear, will prove the inclination of the French, to unite under the Emperor : in that case, we have only the prospect of a long, unsuccessful, and ruinous war, commenced at a moment when it was very doubtful whether we were even able to meet the burthen of a low peace establishment, together with the expense of the interest of our debt, with some exertion for its discharge. The payments stipulated for the maintenance of Napoleon, in Elba, had never been made good by France, but the possession of these sums would, certainly, have made the Emperor neither less able nor less inclined for the attempt to regain the throne. The *moderation* of the Allies in leaving him at liberty to make it, appeared to me insanity. From the moment of the treaty of Paris, I never myself doubted that he would land in France, and from the accounts I had received of the disposition of the French, I was led greatly to fear the result ; so much so, that

I had betted five guineas with Mrs. Arbuthnot, that he recovered the throne before the year, 1816.

How much may we now repent our faithlessness to Murat, unless it can be immediately repaired by an effective treaty. On the whole, though I fear much, I do not absolutely despair ; abstractedly, indeed, we have no right to interfere in France, but in the particular circumstances of the case, we ought to make an effort to save ourselves from the ruin which the secure re-establishment of Napoleon may, and I fear must, bring upon us. It is, certainly, a most extraordinary circumstance, that two such Revolutions should have been accomplished without a drop of blood being yet spilled in civil commotion. It must be acknowledged, that the conduct of Louis XVIII., or his advisers, has been humane, moderate, and, with one exception, wise ; that exception is, his causing the dissatisfaction of the most powerful men in the nation, by refusing them the hereditary peerage.

On the most mature consideration, I voted
 June 17, against the war. I incline to think it
 1815. will be short and successful, but
 I believe it to be impolitick, if not unjust. I
 conceive the project of seating Louis XVIII.

upon the throne, to be a most dangerous precedent likely to be followed by any future conspiracy of Kings. Sixteen millions are already voted under various titles, as subsidies, and the expense of this campaign is estimated at eighty. I do not think the choice of all the Sovereigns on earth is, to us, worth one hundredth part of this sum in our present circumstances. On this subject, the Grenvilles, Grattan, Plunkett, Lord Milton, and a few others, voted with Ministers.

I voted myself with Ministers on the property tax, not to enable them to carry on the war, but, because I infinitely prefer it to the multitude of oppressive taxes, of doubtful produce, by which it must have been replaced. The property tax has, at least, the merit of being productive, it being economical in the collection ; of obliging those who live abroad to contribute their share ; and of obtaining something, though far from what is due, from the mercantile and monied interests.

Murat's political power is annihilated. Certainly he has not shewn much of political whatever he may possess of military talent. It appears extraordinary that Bonaparte should have made no effort to save him ; it seems equally so, that the Allies should have given

Napoleon time to put an end to the intestine commotions in France, which might have made so powerful a diversion in their favor ; each side, however, fears the dangers of offensive operations, without an overwhelming force. In my opinion, peace might have been preserved. I no longer see very great dangers from the return of Napoleon. It is not, merely, that the state of France is altered, but that of Europe ; the neighbouring States do not now afford to his ambition the same opportunities they formerly offered. The Congress has done much to estrange them, but the fear of French subjugation must prevail over all other considerations.

I have bred many gold fish for six years, in the aquarium, and have now about eleven hundred of all ages, in a paved pond in the flower garden, which seems to suit them remarkably well, and where they have bred in considerable numbers. Of my original stock, six came from Burleigh, and six from Kendrick's, in Piccadilly. I have since had a few which Kendrick calls Brazil fish, but which do not differ from the others. I had heard of a breed, a variety of the gold fish, entirely black, found in the lakes on some volcano, in China. With some difficulty, I obtained a

pair, male and female, from Stocten, more than a year and a half ago ; they were of a jet black and appeared old fish, but in about a year, they totally changed colour, till they became entirely red. It is singular they should have remained black so many years, for the female bears the marks of extreme age. Was it the heat of the aquarium which produced the change ? They certainly constitute a considerable variety from the ordinary sort, for this pair have produced a very numerous progeny, which are all black, (now, many of them more than four years old) and, like the parents, have most of them very prominent eyes, both circumstances entirely new in my shoal. Of gold fish in general, the following observations have occurred : they change their colour at very uncertain and capricious periods, some at less than an inch in length, and three months in age ; others, though of the same breed, and in the same situation, when more than six inches in length, and more than two, or, I believe, three years in age : those exposed to the heat of the aquarium change at an earlier average. Linnæus and Gronovius seem to have observed, each of them, only one of these fish, as each has fallen into the error of considering a different variety, a monstrosity of formation,

as one of the constituent marks of the species. Linnæus having supposed them all to have the anal fin double, Gronovius, the tail triple, accidents which with me occur, perhaps, to about three in one hundred. Of the age to which these fish live, I know only one well authenticated fact. Sir C. Kent has a very remarkable gold fish, at Little Ponton, which I have measured, and found to be twelve inches in length, and ten in circumference. I have ascertained, that it was alive at Ponton, in the year 1792, and those who then remember it, think it was at that time as large as now. It is become pale. When there are only two or three pairs in my aquarium, a great quantity of young ones are bred there; in one year, more than one thousand; but, when crowded, no young ones are produced. I conclude from this, that when crowded they devour the spawn. Lime is a deadly poison to these fish; paint does not, in the least, affect them.

In the beginning of June, a few days after
Stubton,
Dec. 4. I had left London, Whitbread put an
 end to his life. He expired almost
 instantly. This man appears to have enjoyed
 every possible source of happiness, yet, he was
 miserable. In his mother's family, there were
 frequent instances of mental insanity, from

which, that of his father does not seem to be entirely exempt. There appears to have been some fault in the organisation of the head, which occasioned a temporary pressure on the brain, when the veins were too full of blood ; more than sufficient cause for the terrible oppression of spirits to which it now seems he had, of late, been frequently subject, but which had been carefully concealed. He enjoyed great wealth, lived in the most perfect domestic felicity, possessed splendid talents. Though his harsh and overbearing manners had, for a long time, been obnoxious to many of all ranks, and particularly to the poor, even whilst they received benefits from him ; yet, the experience of his honesty, his enlightened benevolence, and his indefatigable exertions in almost every department of town and country business, had, at length, procured for him universal respect, and, out of Parliament, almost universal acquiescence in his measures ; and, probably, few men have been so extensively useful to the country. His place, in Bedfordshire, will never be supplied. In Parliament, his bad taste and, what is perhaps the same thing, want of judgment ; above all, his impracticable disposition, and total want of cooperation, diminished greatly the advantages which might otherwise have

been derived from his great ability as an orator, his experience, and his incorruptible firmness. Whitbread had a great desire for office, probably from an opinion that he might be useful to his country. He shewed this in a very extraordinary manner, by listening willingly to the ridiculous attempt of the Regent, to form an Administration of Lord Moira, Lord Egremont, Whitbread, and Sheridan. Admitting, no doubt, the weak and servile Addingtonians, but excluding the principal parts both of the present Opposition, and those now in power.

I have well known Whitbread ever since I attained the age of eighteen. When I left him in London, I thought it very probable I might not see him again, but I was far from suspecting the true cause of the evident alteration which had taken place in him: I expected apoplexy, which had caused the death of his father.

I was engaged during the Session in two different matters respecting individuals, in both of which I was on the successful side. Croker, of the Admiralty, one of the most determined jobbers, whether from caprice, personal feeling, or some strange fancy, to obtain credit with the public for an economy which he never seriously sought after, took it into his head to oppress

the four Marine Barrack Masters, most ancient and deserving servants of the public, by depriving them of the fair and allowed advantages of their situations, without any adequate remuneration. The Treasury were easily brought to decide in their favor, but the Admiralty, who had already given an opinion favorable to them, was induced to support the measure of Croker. At last, the subject came before the house of Commons in a select committee, which, at length, decided in favor of the Barrack Masters. The great difficulty was to get a sufficient number of the committee to attend, to prevent the matter being smuggled through by Croker, and the few who had lent themselves to this job. General Ainslie, accused of various offences in his government of the Islands of Grenada and Dominica, and recalled to answer the accusations, applied to me to repel the charges against him. My personal connection with him arises from his having married the near relation of my wife. This man, without judgment, his temper naturally too irritable, rendered more so by the habit of drinking continued in a hot climate, had, certainly, been guilty of many great indiscretions: that, however, which appeared to me the least capable of justification, was con-

ceased from me till two days before the business came on, when it was too late to retract the promise I had given to defend him. Fortunately, this military offence having been referred to the Commander in Chief, I was at liberty to refuse to enter upon it : fortunately, too, those who attacked him had little information on the subject, and as they dwelt, principally, on the Maroon War which he had conducted with great merit, I was able to make an honorable retreat for him, and to induce Mr. Gordon, supported as he was by Romilly and W. Smith, to withdraw the motion of enquiry.

The battle of Waterloo has decided the fate of Europe, and put an end to the dynasty of the Napoleons. During the tremendous conflict, Brussels was filled with soldiers, and even officers, who ought to have shared its dangers : of the Netherlanders many, as might be expected, from disaffection ; but, even of the British no small number, certainly, from different motives.

The Duke of Wellington appears to have been surprised. On the 16th and 17th, scarcely a horse, and not a cannon, appeared in our lines ; yet, on those days, the British battalions yielded only to the dreadful havoc that

was made of them ; they were mowed down in heaps, but no where conquered. In the memorable battle of the 18th, the obstinacy of Lord Uxbridge had nearly proved fatal to our army. He persisted in charging the French Cuirassiers with his light cavalry, who were unable to make the slightest impression upon them ; and it was not till they were almost destroyed, that he reluctantly brought forward his heavy brigade. But the people respect his courage, and the Regent has white-washed him with a Marquise. Bonaparte seems to have committed a great error, in not making use of an immense reserve, and though every thing was committed to the hazard of this battle, yet, he does not appear to have made any great personal exertion to prevent its loss. The Duke of Wellington braved every danger ; exposed himself wherever the battle languished ; and, if he required from his men the most perfect contempt of death, the abandonment of every idea of personal safety, he, at least, shared with every soldier the sacrifice he demanded. All would still have been insufficient, valour beyond example would not have availed, had not the Prussians, beaten on the 16th, ready to fight again on the 18th, attacked the French in the rear, after a long

and fatiguing march, and decided the day. Had the battle been lost, Brussels would have hailed the victor, and the defence even of Holland must have been hopeless. The Emperor Alexander would have hastened to make peace, at the expense of his Allies, Prussia must have been annihilated, Austria humbled, and England ! What would have been her fate ? She might have been saved by a disgraceful peace. Bonaparte might still, after the battle, have maintained himself, at least, for some time, at the head of the remnant of his army, but he threw himself amongst his enemies, at Paris, and was probably betrayed by Fouchè to the last step of surrendering his person, his ambition, and every future hope.

In the mean time, the combined Sovereigns, in the hour of prosperity, forget every promise, every engagement, and every principle, they had put forth, when they thought the public opinion necessary to their success. But on the English Government falls the greatest load of guilt. It is they who principally insist on imposing upon the French, the wretched and despotic government of the Bourbons. It is the blood and treasure of this free country, which cements their tyranny and bigotry, and enables them to enforce their perjured authority upon

their miserable subjects. Under our presiding influence, the Monarchs are leagued against every exertion of popular energy, and every attempt to mitigate the abuses of arbitrary power.

The restoration of the Jesuits, of the Inquisition, the persecution of the Protestants, are amongst the benefits we have been instrumental in conferring upon the world; and nations have been parcelled out, like land upon an inclosure, and in many instances, as in the case of Warsaw and Genoa, delivered up to their bitterest enemies. We have not even been very strict in observing the treaties we ourselves have dictated. The friends of Ney, and many others, have in vain reclaimed the capitulation of Paris. They who interfere in every other instance, refuse to interest themselves in favor of clemency, or, even to stop the persecution of the southern Protestants.

The Bourbons are incapable of profiting by experience. They, and their violent counselors, must soon create a new Revolution, and the new policy we have adopted of interfering in the internal government of other nations, must involve us in new wars, and render our bankruptcy more certain and more speedy; unless the people (for their Representatives will

not do it) put an end, at once, to this most impolitick, unjust, and ruinous system.

The Duke of Wellington, a party to the treaty of Paris, could have saved Ney : not to have done so was cold, heartless, and unjust. It has fixed an eternal blot upon his great name.

I believe the marriage of the Princess Charlotte with the Prince of Orange, was put an end to, by the artful intrigues of the Duchess of Oldenburgh, who wanted him for her sister.

Even before the conclusion of the war, the country had begun to be involved in the greatest distress. The immense fictitious credit maintained by the prodigious issue of paper money, had enabled Ministers to increase the public burthens, far beyond any reasonable calculations of our financial powers, by postponing the terrible effects of the pressure which at last, however, can only become more dreadful. At length, the bubble burst. The Merchants failed ; the greater part of the country Banks broke ; the multitude of Farmers, who had purchased or cultivated land, without capital, are thrown into goal, the shops have little custom, the laborers, in crowds, thrown out of work ; and so immense a quantity of paper money being at once withdrawn,

Stubton.
April 22.

the price of money is greatly increased, and that of every other commodity, or nearly every other, decreased in proportion.

In this state of things, Ministers act like a man ruined by debt, they calculate for the moment and dare not look our affairs fairly in the face. It is evident, that one remedy only remains for us, if even that be sufficient—retrenchment; every other is childish: without retrenchment, carried to the utmost practicable degree, the interest of the debt, together with necessary expenses, cannot be paid, much less that debt gradually diminished. In these circumstances, a peace is concluded, big with the promise of new wars, and creating the necessity of continuing enormous establishments. To meet these expenses, it is proposed to continue every war tax, excepting only one half of the income tax, that is, to relieve us of six out of eighty millions. Against this preposterous plan, the Opposition have been successful in rousing the indignation of the country: petitions from every part have been presented, and the House of Commons has obliged Ministers to abandon the property and malt taxes. Much, however, yet remains to be done, and I fear neither the House nor the people will have perseverance enough to drive Ministers from

the principle of extravagance, the desire of creating patronage, and the mean subservience to the profligate expenditure of the Regent. At one moment, there was a very near prospect of a change of Administration, which must have led to a radical change of measures ; but an indiscreet and violent speech of Brougham's terrified those country Gentlemen, usually attached to the existing Government, who had joined us, and threw away the opportunity. Since that time, Western, with the best intentions, has occupied the time of the House, and diverted the attention of the people to the state of agriculture : a subject on which it is impossible for any good to be achieved by the Legislature ; and, in the mean time, I much fear the zeal of the people, and their determination to obtain retrenchment, will have been found to become subsided.

I can reflect with some satisfaction, that I have, during the whole Session, never omitted any exertions in my power, to promote the great object of public economy. I have, on every occasion, spoke boldly what appeared to me the truth, and have never spared either Ministers or the Court. Contrary to the opinion of almost all my friends, who, though they heartily supported me, yet thought the measure

impolitick, I called a county meeting, and justified my determination by the most complete success, after obtaining a most numerous and respectable assembly. My petition against the property and malt tax, and for economy and retrenchment, was presented at the same time with those from Yorkshire, London, and many others, and on the very day on which the fate of the property tax was decided ; and to that decision it cannot fairly be denied to have contributed its share.

Brougham is desirous of taking Whitbread's place in the House of Commons, but he is inferior to him in talents, in character, and in consequence ; and he is possessed of no sound judgment. He speaks, sometimes, very ably, but he is not ready, and never succeeds when suddenly called upon. Like Whitbread, he refuses to submit himself to the leading of Pensonby, and aims to be himself at the head of a party ; but his indiscretion has already diminished, if not annihilated that hope, too hastily adopted. His speech against the Prince consisted of violent and unqualified invective, unconstitutionally applied to the person of the Regent, instead of his advisers. It was universally disapproved. I was the first who spoke the truth on this subject. I was nearly as

strong as Brougham, yet it gave almost general satisfaction, merely because it was done without violating accustomed forms, and appeared to arise naturally from the subject in debate.

Early in the Session, in consequence of information I had received, I asked a question of Ministers, which produced the curious fact, that in the very week that succeeded the opening of the Session, with the word economy in the royal speech, they had been employed in augmenting the salaries of the customs and excise officers in England and Scotland. Ministers were so much annoyed at the impression created by this discovery, that they declared they would answer no more questions, and the next day answered them as usual. Nothing can have exceeded the contemptible sort of cunning tricks and duplicity they have displayed throughout the Session. Can such policy ever be successful? Even when the Princess Charlotte and Prince Leopold are to be provided for, they take the opportunity of endeavouring to cheat the public out of £30,000 per annum for the Prince. She had expended of late years, £7000 per annum only, but the Regent had thought proper to place £37,000 to her account, and Ministers, instead of moving for an increase for her of £23,000 to make

up the £60,000, have obtained a vote of £60,000, including only the £7000, which was drawn from the Consolidated Fund, and leaving the remaining £30,000 as an addition for the general expenditure of the Civil List.

Whitbread left debts to the amount of about £350,000. His income was very large, his landed property being stated, by those who were best acquainted with his circumstances, at £20,000 per annum, and his share of the brewery, at £15,000. His style of living, though very handsome, did not account for so large an expenditure : he was never addicted to play, led a domestic life, and his nearest friends cannot imagine in what manner the money could have been disposed of. I have heard it said, that purchases were made with borrowed money, both by himself and his father ; his estates, too, were thought to be very high let, and the rents were, probably, ill paid.

The last Winter was very severe. The frosts were not of very long duration, but the intervals between them were short, and they were so intense, that on one particular night the thermometer in many places, and amongst others, here, was at 4 degrees below Zero of Fahrenheit. In other places, within three miles, it was at 4 above Zero ; and this remarkable

difference, within a short distance, was observed in many parts of the kingdom. In July last, a pair of kangaroos, half grown, were given me by Lord Bath. The male was killed by the severe night in February ; the female does not appear to have suffered. I have now a larger male from Sir Joseph Banks.

The remarkable large gold fish at Ponton July. died a few days ago.

I had long witnessed the evils occasioned to the lower orders, within twenty miles of Lincoln, by a local poor bill, passed in 1796, and which has been smuggled, in some extraordinary manner, through both Houses ; as it contained clauses oppressive and tyrannical to a great degree, and contrary to the principles of common law, as well as of justice. The workhouse was managed well as to food, cleanliness, and order, but it was ruled with an iron rod, and chains and dungeons were in constant use for trivial faults, and at the will of the governor ; it was, also, totally without the means of complaint for the unfortunate inhabitants. The last of these inconveniences must, I fear, remain ; the rest I had determined to remedy. With the assistance of Sir Samuel Romilly, I framed a bill for that purpose, which has also the advantage of repealing all similar clauses

in other local Acts. Ellison, who has always been condemned as the author of the Lincoln poor bill, attended in the House, apparently to support it; but having raised up Mr. George Rose, and Lockhart, who made feeble attempts to resist the impression my plain statement of facts had made upon the House, he sneaked away. The persons interested, at Lincoln, were extremely angry, and sent a deputation to London to oppose my measure. The deputies, however, found they could do nothing but through me, and the principal of them being, fortunately, a candid and liberal man, came and consulted with me upon the occasion; in the mean time, a more formidable opposition had arisen from the Members for Coventry, whom, at last, I satisfied by inserting a new clause. It is curious, that this new clause for which the bill was expressly recommended, which was regularly moved, reported, and agreed to, was afterwards left out by some error of the clerk's: an error not discovered till the bill had passed into a law. The Act is far better without it. Ellison expressed to me his perfect satisfaction of the bill as amended, and told me he had always disapproved of the Lincoln Bill; but as soon as I had left Town, he threatened to oppose my bill, and

told Sir Samuel Romilly that there was neither sense nor legislation in it : he did not venture to oppose the third reading.

Not imagining any danger would be incurred in the House of Lords, I had merely desired Lord Lilford to attend to its progress. The Chancellor shewed an inclination to oppose it : it was supported by Lords Lauderdale, Holland, and Stanhope ; and Lord Ellenborough approving it, it passed into a law.

The Session, which opened with a promise of economy in the Regent's speech, continued and concluded with the systematic refusal of Ministers to practice it. A few clerks, indeed, were diminished, but a higher peace establishment was made than ever before known ; and an immense addition to the Civil List revenue. In the mean time, every source of revenue begins to diminish in its produce, and the public debt, instead of being lessened, is actually, in fact, increasing. What will be the issue of such insane conduct ? Either national bankruptcy, a revolution, or both. To diminish the interest of the funds, (an act of bankruptcy which may soon become absolutely necessary) would produce great individual distress ; though, perhaps, less than that which it would relieve : and the public benefit arising from that, or a

still more decisive measure, would be, in my opinion, immense : but the act, if not justified by imperious necessity, would be most dishonest. It would probably put an end, for some time at least, to the funding system, (the art of cheating posterity) and to public credit, which enables us to carry on unjust wars. Ministers, however, will do nothing : they have neither talents, decision, nor virtue, to qualify them to act in such a crisis.

Charles Chaplin, of Blankney, Member for
 November. the county, died in the last days of
 August. He was one of my earliest friends, and, however politically hostile to each other, we had always lived in the strictest friendship in private life ; we had even had very considerable pecuniary transactions, without intervention or *security*, with mutual advantage and satisfaction. He was an honorable, virtuous, and benevolent man, but he had no head, and his ignorance on all political subjects was wonderful : his subserviency to Ministers made him popular with those, who call themselves the *loyal* party in this county ; and his private character was deservedly respected by all. What was to be done I knew not. I consulted my friends ; they all advised peace. Another vacancy was shortly expected, and

this was not thought the proper one ; great part of the county might resent the attempt of carrying two men of independent principles. Lord Brownlow had set up his brother, a contest was certain, and though my success was deemed sure, yet, it might be purchased by enormous expense, and the enemy might recover at the next election. The increasing indignation at W. Cust being proposed, appeared to possess all parties. The partial Sheriff, obliged by a requisition (not from my friends) to call a day of nomination, had taken care to fix it the very day before the election, probably for the precise purpose of not giving me time to vacate my seat, if I should be called upon by the freeholders : this call, in fact, took place, and seemed almost unanimous with those who attended. The next day, (the day of election) I went to Lincoln, and explained to the assembly the impossibility of my then acquiescing in their wishes. They applied to the Sheriff to postpone the election, to give me time to vacate. C. Chaplin was then put in nomination, but having already promised his support to Cust, which he had since repented, the latter was elected with every possible mark of public disapprobation.

October
26.

After breakfast, I was informed that Belvoir Castle was on fire. I went to the top of my house, with a good telescope. I saw a vast body of smoke, but seeing the building apparently entire ; no flames, no bustle, and no appearance of engines, I concluded that some workshop had been on fire and was extinguished. At half-past one, a messenger arrived with the lamentable intelligence that the interior of the Castle was consumed, and that the assistance of my Cavalry was requested for the preservation of the property. I immediately gave the necessary orders, and repaired myself to Belvoir. The walls yet remained, and some of the new apartments had been spared by the fire ; the rest was a tremendous heap of ruins, in many parts of which the flames still threatened to break out again. The fire had probably broke out soon after twelve at night, though not discovered before three. As there was no Engine at Belvoir, and those from Grantham, Belton, and Melton, could not arrive before eight or nine, the flames long raged without control. Multitudes attended of all ranks, and from all parts, anxious to give their utmost assistance ; but their zeal ill directed was often mischievous, and immense destruction was effected by rashly tearing down pictures,

glasses, and furniture of all kinds, without necessity, and even, after the fire had been subdued ; yet, all had acted with the best intentions. Soon after four, the greater part of my Cavalry, who had anticipated my order, arrived, and we immediately took possession of the Castle, which we found full of strangers ; and placing sentries at all the avenues, guarded the property for two days, when the mob had entirely dispersed.

The loss is enormous. The work of the life, and fortune of the Duke of Rutland has almost disappeared. The plate was saved and the greater part of the pictures ; but a few by the first masters are destroyed, particularly the Sea Monster, by Salvator Rosa, and the Maid of Orleans, by Rubens. Almost all those by Sir Joshua Reynolds are also gone. There does not appear the slightest grounds to suppose the fire to have originated from design, but the greatest negligence is every where apparent. The * Duke of Rutland's conduct evinced firmness, gratitude, and all the most amiable feelings. He was perfectly alive to the consoling circumstance, that all his family was safe ; and

* He was absent at Cheveley, but arrived in the morning ; he was refused admittance by my sentry, who did not know the Duke, who afterwards acknowledged the propriety of his strict obedience to orders.

the concern and anxiety of all descriptions of persons, marked the universal estimation in which his character is held.

This Session of Parliament begun under
Stubton,
March, 1817. circumstances rather favorable to
 Opposition. Ministers had most
 impudently despised the public desire for re-
 trenchment; thus they neglected the opportu-
 nity of gaining credit to themselves for those
 reductions, which they very soon found them-
 selves under the necessity of adopting; insuf-
 ficient as they are, either to satisfy the country,
 or to rescue its finances from the bankruptcy
 which appears to me inevitably to await it.
 Every thing they have yielded to economy, has
 been, evidently, unwillingly done. First, to
 avoid a committee of finance, named by Op-
 position, they formed one of their own; hinting
 that the report might not be made for two or
 three years: they have already found it expe-
 dient to announce, that this committee has
 recommended the abolition, on the death of the
 present possessors, of ten sinecure offices; an
 abolition which, if future events give them
 courage, they may still intercept in the House
 of Lords. They next recommended the
 Regent to afford to the public necessities
 £50,000 from his allowance for private expen-

diture. 'This miserable gift, however, farcical as it is, they had some difficulty to propose to the Regent, and, at last, persuaded Leach to do it; who is said to have thereby incurred the high displeasure of the Prince. The navy they have since very much reduced; and the army, though still more than twice the amount of any former peace establishment, is still diminished considerably, both at home and abroad, setting aside that in France, which is also reduced. With all this, the country was not satisfied. It is become sensible, that the trade cannot struggle against the enormous weight of taxation. 'That our former prosperity cannot, in any degree, be restored to us, without a very great diminution of our burthens; which must daily increase the distress of the country, whilst they daily become less equal to the discharge of even the interest of our debt. Ministers, utterly incapable of measures calculated to meet the danger, have recourse only to such as are calculated to afford to themselves a temporary respite. Without necessity and with scarce a colorable pretext, they have suspended habeas corpus, and re-enacted the seditious and gagging bills. 'To do this, they have realarmed the alarmists, and imposed upon Ponsonby and Pigot. Opposition, conti-

nually told by the two latter members of the secret committee, that we should find there was some ground for alarm, knew not how to act and assisted the sham plot by not treating it as it deserved. It appears to me, that the country has not been much duped by this scheme, and even the alarmists in the two Houses, those excepted who are desirous of availing themselves of this opportunity of joining Administration, are fast recovering from their momentary fears.

Of late, the great question of the reform of parliament has made many converts. The people are become more anxious to obtain it than they have ever before appeared to be : but the little hope, if any hope there were, that any measure of reform could be carried through the House of Commons, has now vanished for the present. The violence of Hunt, the London riot, connected with the meeting for reform in Spafields, and the insult upon the Regent, when going to open the Session of Parliament, have certainly diminished the very little inclination there was in the Legislature, to give any plan of reform a favorable reception.

The slender talents for eloquence in the Legislature are still more diminished.
 April 14. Canning is returned ; but his powers

appear to have sunk with his character. Sometimes, indeed, he is delivered of poetical prose, highly wrought, with great labour; not always new, very beautifully expressed, and forming the conclusion of a long harangue, little to the purpose and without any strength of argument. Burdett is much improved, but neither he nor Brougham have learned discretion. Horner is no more. Great acquirements, intense application, a great command of words, taste, judgment, force, honour, and patriotism—an amiableness of disposition and manners which engaged and captivated all men, led us to look to Horner as one of the first hopes of the nation; and his youth afforded the prospect of long and substantial improvement, from experience in every thing connected with political exertions. His exertions in the House of Commons, and those which he made in his profession, the law, were too much for a constitution apparently delicate. He died in Italy of a consumption, and carried with him the sincere regrets of a more than ordinary proportion of his countrymen, and the *professed* lamentations of the rest.

After Horner, there are few men on the liberal side of the House of Commons on whom our present reliance is placed with fonder anxiety

than Tierney ; but he, too, is struggling against impaired health, and the event of the struggle is yet doubtful. Grattan is wearing out, and Ponsonby is no longer what he was. Brougham, with all his brilliant talents for speaking, all his fund of parliamentary knowledge, and skill in debate, possesses the confidence neither of the House, nor of the people. Lord Cochrane is a wretched speaker ; yet, in a debate on reform, founded on some petition, Brougham, was thought to be much hurt in reputation. Lord Cochrane accused him of abandoning his former opinions, and Brougham failed in an angry attempt at justification. Should the contest for Westminster be between these two, Brougham will probably be beaten, Sir G. Heathcote was extremely anxious for a county meeting, to petition for economy and reform. I was against bringing forward the second question, though ready to support it ; because I was sure that many of my personal friends would be highly displeased at my placing them (those unfriendly to reform) in a very awkward situation. At length, the little fermentation created in men's minds by the new plot, made the meeting, in the opinion of all, inexpedient ; and by a sort of tacit consent, the Tories gave up all idea of petitioning on the escape.

Craycroft, indeed, proposed to the grand jury after Chaplin and I had left it, to address the Regent on the escape; and as he persevered in spite of the wishes of all but Elmhirst and Massingberd, it was most unwillingly, at length, acquiesced in, and some bad English is to be presented by Pelham, the foreman.

The suspension of habeas corpus was to
 Stubton, expire on the first of this month.
 July. Government appear to have been in some perplexity; they determined, however, to revive the old secret committee, and renew the suspension. Ponsonby, Pigot, and Lord Milton, were no longer their dupes; and the scandalous manner in which a few discontented had been urged on by those in the *pay and employ* of Ministers, became notorious to the public. The suspension was carried, as every thing is carried, by a great majority. The nation is indifferent: What will be the consequence? Nothing. The job of appointing Canning Minister to Lisbon, where there was no Court, on which and some other conditions his union with Administration was secured, had disgusted the country. Canning had sunk in reputation, rarely spoke, and never with effect. Brougham, wishing to improve upon this advantage, lost it. He persuaded

Lambton to bring forward a question upon it, and L. opened the subject with great moderation, propriety, and judgment. Burdett then, at Brougham's desire, totally ignorant of the subject, which till that morning he had never considered, made a most violent, indiscreet, and offensive speech, for the purpose of provoking Canning to defend himself, as if this could ever have been a matter of doubt. He did defend himself with great ability, and succeeded in fixing the question on the false ground on which Burdett had rested it. Brougham then spoke, well or ill we know not, for the House refused to listen. Canning's defence imposed on me, and I was near leaving the House with Lord Folkestone and Brand, but not thinking it prudent to prefer the impression of the moment to my former considerate opinion, I determined to wait for Tierney, whose argument brought me back to reason, and convinced me in what manner I had, for a moment, been imposed upon. I spoke, at some length, against the bill for giving the power to the Crown of granting pensions in lieu of the sinecure places abolished. This speech had not much effect in the House, nor did any of the Members express afterwards to me any approbation of it; yet, it seems to

have been more approved in the country, than any former effort of mine.

On the poor laws, as I expected, nothing has been done. A bill has passed the Commons to diminish the expense of elections, particularly county elections, from which I hope for great advantage. Two days after I left London, Ponsonby had a paralytic or apoplectic stroke in the House of Commons. He may live, but his public life has closed. Who is to succeed him ?

Ponsonby lingered only about a week, without hope. No man has possessed or deserved a higher private character. As a statesman he was deficient in energy, and even in decision. He was too often the dupe of the compliments Ministers paid to his candour ; his principles were not sufficiently fixed ; and honorable and virtuous as he was, he had not a sufficient detestation of corruption. His oratory was, in general, tame and weak ; but he sometimes rose above himself. Tierney must be his successor if he have sufficient health ; if not, the post must remain vacant. Should Brougham attempt to occupy it, the mischief will be very great.

The dreadful and increasing effects of the bad system of our poor laws, determined me

to erect a house of industry at Claypole, for seven, perhaps ultimately, nine contiguous parishes. My objects are, to *employ* the whole of the poor, by attaching a farm and large garden to the establishment: thus, at the same time, to make the poor less miserable, and oblige them to provide by their labor for a part, at least, of the expense of their maintenance; and to afford a suitable education for the children. The establishment is founded on the Act, 22 Geo. III, c. 83. The committee for lending exchequer bills for the employment of the poor, were much delighted with my plan; and, finding they could not advance me the money I wanted, under their act, procured a clause to be inserted in the amendment act to enable them to do so. The general opinion in the country seems to be, that the establishment will prosper during my life, and then fall into abuse: should this happen, I shall have done more harm than good; but I really think if once well started, it may continue for ages to be well managed. In the mean time, Owen has developed his plan for forming, not the poor, but all the lower orders, into communities of fifteen hundred to five thousand, assembled in a single building, occupying a farm in common, under a sort of monastick government.

Fortunately, he is utterly unable to obtain any sort of concurrence in this plan ; for a more admirable scheme for the destruction of all public spirit, or personal exertion, never was contrived. Owen is, I believe, an honest enthusiast, admirably calculated for the management of a large manufacturing establishment, and for bringing it to a state of order and moral conduct. I am in correspondence with him, to obtain a master for my house of industry. Owen appeared to have many and some powerful supporters until one of his publications contained an expression reflecting upon religion : from that moment he was totally deserted.

In the last Summer, I received a very unexpected affront. Sir T. Whichcote had,
 1818. of late, rarely attended the assizes, and the office of chairman, whether he was present or absent, had been virtually exercised by me. Notice was given of a motion for a permanent chairman, and it was publicly avowed by the Chaplins, as well as the other Magistrates, that I was to be the person chosen ; Sir T. Whichcote having declined, on account of his health, the compliment intended to be paid him, and of which I had given notice. When the day arrived, I was somewhat surprised at the unusual and ominous presence of Reeve,

and of others not in the habit of attending ; still more was I surprised when I found Mr. Chaplin was elected chairman, and had, *afterwards*, to qualify as a *Magistrate*. The reason avowed for Chaplin's being a candidate was, that it would assist him as candidate for the county ; thus sanctioning the disgraceful practice of bringing politics into a Court of Justice. Yet, I must acknowledge that he made a good chairman.

In the mean time, Chaplin began openly to declare his intention of opposing Cust at the next election, and actively, though quietly, to solicit votes. Sir W. Welby, on behalf of Lord Brownlow, asked Chaplin if he were really determined ; and on being told he was, informed him Lord Brownlow would give him no further trouble. Soon after, Lord Brownlow, finding himself supported by Sir J. Banks, and by Ministers, (though they rather wished him to decline,) induced Sir William Welby to explain away his communication. Just at this period, Mr. Chaplin's name appeared first on the list for Sheriff, and he hastily published a hand bill, accusing Lord Brownlow of having effected this, to exclude him from being a candidate. With these aggravations, I little expected either to give way, and immediately

published my address to the county. No sooner had it appeared, than Cust withdrew, recommending Chaplin. They did not see Chaplin's hand bill till the day after. My friends now thought my prospect very bad. I had scarcely any considerable friend but Sir John Thorold. Sir Gilbert Heathcote would not come forward, and I was even myself inclined to withdraw. This, however, was thought disgraceful, and it was determined to persevere. Pelham and Chaplin are at an immense expense. I have no paid agents.*

In parliament this year, Opposition seem
 March 20. reduced lower than ever; nor can we obtain a decent attendance. We have been unlucky on some questions. Brougham, indeed, has been as able and more discreet than usual; but it has been otherwise with Lambton and Lord Folkestone. Even on the indemnity bill, which involved the great questions of the secret committee and suspension bills, though the argument was all with us, our divisions were most scanty: thus inspired, Ministers refuse all economy; but I think they are growing more and more unpopular in the country. I am sure it is so in my county.

* The greater my folly, for it is absurd to attempt to carry a county election without paid agents. My experiment fully proved this.

The Session, probably the Parliament, is
 Stubton,
 May, 1818. nearly concluded; and, after remain-
 ing much longer in London than I
 had intended, I am returned, much reduced
 by a protracted affection of the lungs. The
 imbecility of Ministers in Parliament has been
 extraordinary. They first made a feeble at-
 tempt to gain popularity, by hurrying through
 the repeal of the habeas corpus suspension bill,
 in a single day, and this when the royal speech
 had just informed us, that the vigilance of
 Magistrates would be necessary to preserve the
 tranquillity of the country. Throughout the
 Session, they have frequently been beaten on
 a division, and have often given up important
 measures without risking one. Lately, they
 thought proper to bring forward an increase of
 the allowances to all the royal Dukes, from
 £18,000 per annum to £40,000. The House
 however, gave the Dukes of Kent and Cam-
 bridge £6,000 each additional; (offered the
 same to Clarence, which he foolishly refused
 as insufficient;) and refused all that exceeded
 this, as well as the sums intended as outfit.
 I spoke against even these additions, on ac-
 count of the great emoluments derived by those
 individuals from Hanover and Gibraltar.

Brougham displayed very great eloquence

in moving for a commission to examine into the abuse of charities,—abuses the most extensive and shocking. The two persons against whom the heaviest charges are brought, are Lord Lonsdale and the Bishop of Lincoln; but the measure appears to meet with the most barefaced opposition from the Chancellor and Lord Redesdale: already it is encumbered with exemptions, and I much fear the delinquents will be, in a great measure, screened from punishment.

My last act this Session was to bring forward a motion for the repeal of the septennial act, the most moderate project of reform which can be entertained. I was heard with great attention for forty minutes, and did my best. The ministerial side of the House did not vouchsafe a word in reply. I was supported by Romilly and W. Smith. Brougham thought proper to defend the *right* of Parliament to prolong their own duration. This warm, and I thought, unnecessary attack rather than defence was directed against W. Smith. Brougham, contrary to the principles he himself laid down, had, a few days before, supported the addition to the Duke of Kent's allowance: he gained *no credit* by it with either side of the House.

During this Session, S. Douglas, son of Lord Glenburnie, has greatly improved in speaking. Sir J. Mackintosh has also distinguished himself, and, on the alien bill, delivered a speech worthy of the days of Fox. Canning, in that debate, avowed that any movement in France would draw us into a Continental war. Will not the public take the alarm? Gifford, the new Solicitor General, having totally failed in parliament, it became necessary to call in the assistance of Copley, who had to change the whole of his public principles, to qualify himself for the task: his voice and manner are excellent, but, hitherto, it is "*vox et præterea nihil.*"

Towards the end of the Session, the life of Lord Milton was suddenly endangered by a pleurisy, and the fracture of his collar bone in hunting. The deep anxiety which prevailed in London, proved the high value in which his safety is so deservedly held. I fear he is even yet in a precarious state. His incorruptible honesty would render him a severe public loss: in private life no man would be more lamented. The death of Lord Ossory left the Lieutenancy of Bedfordshire vacant. The petty malice of the Court induced them to give it to Lord Grantham. The reason hinted to the public was, the Duke of Bedford having

subscribed to Hone. I am informed, Lord Ossory had two years before wished to resign it to the Duke of Bedford, but was told he would not be his successor. The Duke of Bedford gave me his unsolicited support, and on my writing to thank him, I received a letter most highly approving my political character and conduct.

The dissolution will, I believe, take place this day, certainly, this week. My ^{Stubton,} June 11, 1818. situation is uncertain. The voice of the county is decidedly with me, but I never was, from various circumstances, so little prepared, in a pecuniary point of view, for the struggle.

The nomination for our county came on upon the 24th of June. Chaplin had ^{Stubton,} July 1. mustered all the persons he could persuade or hire, few of them freeholders, and he obtained the show of hands. The next day, we proceeded to the election. On the first day, I had a majority over Chaplin of 28; on the next came a reverse, and I was 147 below him. On Saturday he had gained still more, and was 416 above me.

THURSDAY.
P. 1187.
H 880.
C. 858.

SATURDAY.
P. 3693.
C. 3069.
H. 2653.

We had polled two thirds of the freeholders. To continue the contest, it would be necessary to bring in the outvoters, at an enormous expense and uncertain result. A general opinion prevailed amongst my friends, that we should have more voters in Lincoln on Friday, than we could either poll or provide for, (both unfounded,) and many were actually and most fatally stopped from coming.

It is now probable, that had I not persuaded (probably) 750 of my plumpers to vote unwillingly for Pelham, I might have been at the head, he, possibly, at the bottom of the poll. Had I, however, adopted the plan of polling all my votes single, Pelham's friends, who are now many of them disgusted with his selfish conduct, would have supposed it had naturally followed from *my first* hostile measure. With regard to the resignation, on the information we possessed, no other step was prudent. That our returns were so bad, was partly owing to the bad measures my inexperience led me to pursue, partly to the difficulty of bringing volunteers to act with concert and regularity until they have been once beaten. I find that I have been every where blamed for giving away a sure victory ; but, even in their vexation, the freeholders have shown a determination to ad-

here to my cause. Measures are already commenced to prepare for a more successful battle. At a large meeting, at Gainsborough, of friends of that neighbourhood and the Isle of Axholme, I have already reconciled the opinions of all, and increased the numbers of my partisans; and I have little doubt of producing the same result at Boston, when an opportunity may offer, but the attempt yet would be premature. In the mean time, I am informed that Chaplin's expenses have been enormous, certainly not less than two or three times my own. Had I proceeded, the expense of the three last days must have been exceedingly inconvenient to me.

On a peach tree, in my peach house, bearing
August 6. a good crop of peaches, of which a small part is already gathered, is one very fine and perfect nectarine, produced without any art or trick. I had heard of this singular circumstance having occurred elsewhere, but never before had an opportunity of seeing it.

After drawing my barouche from Lincoln
Stubton, Aug. 7, 1818. Assizes, on a day uncommonly hot, one of my coach horses, six years old, the finest I ever possessed, was taken exceedingly ill; he was in a high fever, and had

not discharged any urine since he left Lincoln. They had already obtained from him a large quantity of blood, and I ordered him to be fomented, which was done. I would also have administered a clyster, but no pipe was within reach ; unfortunately, the farrier arrived on other business : knowing him to be a man who practised only because, having broke as a farmer, he had nothing else to do, I had even less confidence in Hoole than in the ordinary race. He approved, however, of what had been done, and promised to give no medicine. I ordered the horse, naturally shy in staling, to be left alone, and the door locked, and went away : no sooner was I gone, (to dinner) than Hoole, to excite the horse to stale, thrust an onion up the passage of the urethra, which it completely stopped. The excess of his ignorant folly, however, was not believed, till the horse having died in agony, the onion was found : on its removal, the urine followed. This reminds me of another farrier, who was giving drinks to a cow, and assured his admiring audience, that one drop of water would produce instant death. To their astonishment, I ordered them to let her go ; she filled herself with water, at a pond, and never ailed more. The two farriers, it is to be hoped, will be ruin-

ed as to their trade. The horse was recovering when the farrier arrived, and I had little doubt of his staling when left alone.

At the last election, I lost a very great number of votes from the long and unaccountable supineness of Sir G. Heathcote. He was zealous at last, when it was too late; and when his inactivity had afforded an excuse for persons connected with him, to espouse the opposite interest; amongst them, Smith, of Horbling, an attorney, probably carried against me more votes than any other individual in the county. Lord Fitzwilliam and his son, notwithstanding their near relation to the Pelhams, afforded me the strongest proofs of their friendship. Lord Milton, by canvassing with me, went far to contradict the worthless falsehoods which had been industriously propagated against me. My journey to Boston has not had all the success I expected from it: this may, in great measure, be attributed to the measures of a very zealous friend and near neighbour, whose bad judgment has created considerable mischief to the cause. The republicans at Boston seem, in general, well inclined. Numbers in that neighbourhood are dissenters, who are almost all with me, particularly the Quakers, who nearly all give me plumpers.

The speaking at Lincoln was better far than I had ever known it. Pelham, indeed, was very bad, and Sir C. Anderson did not speak so well as once before ; but Sir R. Sheffield, for Pelham, spoke in a very manly and constitutional style. Allix, in seconding my nomination, acquitted himself remarkably well ; and Chaplin himself, though without learning or information, spoke with good humour, and in a manner far superior to all our expectations ; and which, though somewhat vulgar, was not ill adapted to his audience.

The elections, on the whole, have not turned out favorable to those in power ; the numbers they have lost are not very considerable, but several are chosen from amongst the avowed friends of reform ; some of them, too, men of activity and talents, whose exertions in parliament will probably create a great effect. The Capital, including Westminster and Southwark, has chosen none but members of the Opposition. It is remarkable, too, that the Ministers have not even been able to nominate the whole of the Scotch Peers. Lords Belhaven and Roseberry having been returned in opposition to them. From Brooks', one hundred and thirty members have sent a written request to Tierney, that he would act as leader of the Opposition, with which he has complied.

Since the general election, Romilly, who
Stubton,
Dec. 1818.
 had recently lost his wife, suffering under the severest mental affliction, put an end to his life with a razor. He appears to have anticipated the possibility of insanity. He had led a life in which his unremitting attention to business was, probably, greater than could be supported even by his great and vigorous intellect. No man could have been less spared by the country. His indefatigable devotion to his public duties, his incorruptible integrity, sound patriotic principles, and powerful mode of lashing the worthless and corrupt, have left no one to succeed him. Horner, alone fit to be his political heir, was gone before him. Romilly devoted the little time his business in parliament, and in the Court of Chancery, left him, to the enjoyment of his domestic comforts, and was rarely seen in society. I never knew him but in the House of Commons; but, I reflect with pride, that he supported me in every motion I have brought forward of public importance, and even had the goodness to draw up for me several bills which I have introduced into the House.

Romilly always entertained the highest possible respect for the characters of Lords Ellenborough and Eldon, and never liked to hear

any unfavorable reflections made upon them. When informed that Lord Ellenborough was become childish, he said no man's mind was safe.

No proper candidate could be found to succeed Romilly in the representation of Westminster. Lord John Russell was physically unfit, from the badness of his health, and the extreme feebleness of his voice. Sir F. Burdett had better have avoided interfering, but he exerted himself for his friend Hobhouse, who refused to give a sufficiently explicit declaration of his political principles, and inspired no party with confidence. G. Lamb, probably in his heart an enemy to reform, excited no great zeal in his supporters; but is chosen by the efforts of the old whigs and the preference of the tories.

Whitbread, the father of the last, possessed
 March 12. a great deal of industry, much singularity of character, possibly some talent. Early in life, he expended somewhat more than the whole of his very small fortune, in a sort of summer house, near Bedford, yet known by the name of Whitbread's folly. His creditor dunned him for the debt he had contracted, and that in a manner so little agreeable to him, that he determined to exert himself

to pay him. To this accident he attributed his success in life. He was indefatigable in his business ; and there was no hour, day or night, when those whom he employed could rely upon his absence. His manners and ideas were vulgar, and he had a great deal of unintelligible superstition ; but he was generous and charitable. He was the intimate friend of another remarkable character, Howard, the visitor of prisons and hospitals, and almost the first corrector of their abuses. Howard was a tyrant at home, but his tyranny appeared more the effect of a mind partially diseased, than of a disposition naturally bad. His harsh treatment was thought to have hastened the death of his wife, before whose picture he frequently performed a sort of penance. He had an only son, whom, for the slightest offences, he obliged to remain for hours in a prescribed attitude, in a grotto in his garden. The son became a lunatic, and the father a wanderer ; but he nobly paid to mankind at large, the voluntary forfeiture of his domestic offences. Whitbread and Howard were both natives of Carrington, near Bedford.

The new Parliament acquired some esteem
 June. from the people. Ministers had more
 than once been defeated. A large

floating party alarmed those in power, and appeared undecided both as to measures and men. In an evil hour, Tierney brought forward a motion on the state of the nation. The question might have rested firmly on its own grounds, but he, unfortunately, argued it on the grounds of party feeling, and a desire to obtain possession of office. Nothing ever appeared to me so imprudent, nothing ever was less successful. The floating party were, in fact, men unconnected with, and unknown to, each other; who had few of them any other intention than that of espousing the strongest side. Being driven to a premature decision, they joined the government, and, contrary to the expectations of both sides, gave them a triumphant majority. The joy of Ministers was not concealed: they instantly took advantage of their victory, no longer attempted to diminish the odium of their measures, and added taxes to the amount of three millions to the burdens of an oppressed people. The folly of this last measure must soon appear; it may assist in ruining our trade and manufactures, but must be absolutely unproductive.

Cuvier sur les Fossiles. I never was so astonished as by this book; it gives room for the most extraordinary reflections. He gives

facts only, and misleads neither you nor himself, by attempting the formation of any theory. He appears to me to prove that no human bones have yet been found in a fossil state, and that the skeletons and bones so found, belong to animals scarcely any of them now existing. In the regions furthest North, have even been discovered, by the sudden melting of almost aboriginal snows, bodies of animals approaching to the elephant, with the flesh and hair upon them ; animals which could only exist where there was a vegetation luxuriant as that near the tropics. How ignorant are we of the world we inhabit !

Black swans, from New Holland, have bred
 October. freely at Wentworth. The soil there appears peculiarly salutary both to animal and vegetable life. The plantations near the house have rhododendrons growing in the highest perfection, as underwood. The Portugal laurels grow in the greatest luxuriance ; one which I measured was fifty-seven yards in circumference. About the 4th of June, I received from Kendrick, three Brazil tortoises, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the greatest length of the shell ; the flesh green and yellow striped, the shell of a dingy green, brown, and red. They delight in the warm water of the aqua-

rium, but when the sun shines, sit basking on a pot, a stone, or gravel. They will eat insects, small fish, and almost any animal food ; they are very active and tame ; and in three months have grown three quarters of an inch.

In the course of the Summer, the great body of the people have taken more than usual interest in the question of reform. Unfortunately, by the apathy of the whigs, having fallen into the hands of the most violent and profligate demagogues, it was no longer possible for the best friends of liberty to unite with them. Hunt and Co. pushed them on with a revolutionary (French revolutionary) violence, which revolted and alarmed the timid. Little, indeed, was the occasion for alarm ; for the people of England never have acted, and never will act, with permanent vigor or resolution, unless under the guidance of men of rank or consequence. Ministers seem to have resolved to drive them into some act of violence, to justify their use of the military ; and, at last, somewhat prematurely, the event occurred at Manchester. Ministers have totally failed in all their financial speculations. I might say, in all their political speculations. They had predicted increasing prosperity, and we find only increasing misery and ruin ; it appears, there-

fore, to them absolutely necessary to throw the blame upon the people ; and this idea is, probably, the more welcome to them, as it will, at the same time, give them the opportunity of diminishing their rights and liberties, particularly those which relate to the consideration of grievances, whether by the use of the press, or in public assemblies. Of the meeting at Manchester, and the events which followed upon it, the accounts are, in some respects, so contradictory, that it is time alone which can enable us to form an accurate judgment upon them. Why then refuse all enquiry ?

It appears that an immense mass of people assembled from various places, part of them marching under flags with some degree of regularity, but all unarmed ; that the Magistracy pretended or felt great alarm for the tranquillity of the place ; and proceeded in the most violent and offensive manner to arrest Hunt, who had before offered to surrender himself to them, and whom they could have had no difficulty at any time in securing.

Whether the riot act was read in some place where no one heard it, or was not read at all—whether the constables were or were not first employed and driven back—are facts yet unproved ; but the legal mode of a posse comi-

tatus was not resorted to, and the military were ordered to charge an unresisting people. The regular troops are said to have behaved with a due desire to avoid the shedding of blood, but the yeomanry of the vicinity appear to have been the too willing agents of a violent and sanguinary Magistracy. Hunt and Co. were seized; then followed disgraceful scenes of prisoners ill treated, justice denied, and Coroners adjoining their courts to screen delinquents.

In the mean time, the most violent measures are resolved upon in the Cabinet. The Magistrates and yeomanry are thanked by the Secretary of State, in the name of the Regent, and the fountain of mercy is thus polluted with civil blood. Lord Fitzwilliam, universally respected for his benevolence, his domestic virtues, his moderation, and his attachment to the constitution and religion of his country, is dismissed from his office of Lieutenant of a part of Yorkshire, because he attended a public meeting which only called for enquiry into these important subjects. Lord Sidmouth has issued circular letters, for the purpose of creating, as far as his folly and imbecility can effect it, a false alarm. Orders to secure cannon, and to take every other precaution against a

powerful enemy—and what is this enemy?—a few men driven to desperation by famine; perhaps a few others with bad designs; the whole *totally* without arms, ammunition, leaders, or money. It is melancholy to reflect, how many are the dupes of all this system of hypocrisy and falsehood. In my own county and Northamptonshire we dare not call a meeting; such are the fears of some, and the apathy of others, that even defeat might be incurred from the want of a full attendance: and by the advice of all my friends, with reluctance and vexation I give it up. What can be done for the people, if they will do nothing for themselves?

Mountague Matthew, brother of the Earl of Landaff, who died this Summer, was accustomed to deliver his violent and vulgar speeches in the House of Commons, with stentorian lungs. Once, when in vain called to order by the Speaker, the whole House exerted itself to drown his voice, but he was plainly heard above them all. Some one, mistaking him for Matthew Mountague, he said, they were no more alike than a chesnut horse to a horse chesnut.

Brand, having succeeded to a peerage, and
 November, Lamb, having made a successful canvass for Hertfordshire, Lord Fitz-
 1819.

william wrote to offer me the vacant seat for Peterborough. His letter was most friendly and liberal; yet, an allusion to his opinion, hostile to reform, made me very doubtful of the issue. I stated my opinions very fully to him, and he was perfectly satisfied. I incline to think Lord Milton well disposed to reform, but restrained by his great respect and affection for his father. On going to Milton, for the purpose of canvassing Peterborough, I found the high church terribly hostile, both to the family at Milton, and to myself. These good courtiers can see no virtues in a man at variance with the court. The Bishop, Marsh, is at the head of this hostility; he was once, I am informed, a friend to liberal principles and toleration, but, finding this was not the road to preferment, he turned round, wrote a book, and became a bishop. One clergyman went the length of informing his neighbours, that I was a rascal, a jacobin, and an atheist: the last of these accusations was alarming. Fortunately, when I went to canvass the place with Lord Milton, the mob drew the carriage and gave us an opportunity of addressing them. Lord Milton spoke with great emotion, and even shed tears; he defended me most honorably, and with far more effect than I could

have defended myself. It had not been usual for the inhabitants to take much interest in the elections, but their little respect for the clergy, the great and merited popularity of the house of Milton, and, perhaps, some favorable impressions received of me, made me the most acceptable candidate they have long or ever had.

My election came on the last of November.

December
21.

An immense concourse, many persons from the country, gave great eclât to the scene. The dinner was very numerously attended. Late in the evening, I left them and proceeded to London to take my seat. The clergy affected to fear a riot ; the most respectable amongst them, however, Dr. Strong, had relented. I inculcated oblivion, and I hope all animosity will cease. A principal layman, deceived by calumny, had gone into Norfolk to avoid me : he there heard so good a character of me, that he returned to support my election. I am exceedingly pleased with this return to parliament, and it appears to give great satisfaction to all my friends, public and private. I could owe a seat to no man more honorably or more agreeably than to Lord Fitzwilliam ; besides, my friends were disappointed, and my political enemies delighted, with my not having a seat in this House.

This appears to me the most corrupt and
Stubton,
Dec. 25, 1819. most vulgar Parliament that ever
 sat; they blindly support the Minister in every proposition. Then, they are all orators, half of them want to speak on every important question. It is true there is an increased number, hostile to Administration; but then, there is no third body, of any weight or numbers, to turn the scale on any occasion. The bills, founded on the late events, have been well fought. The sedition bill, by being made temporary, by not affecting meetings in rooms, and other alterations, is disarmed. The worst of these measures, are those which affect the liberty of the press; and Ministers, on this subject, were so determined, that nothing could be gained. It was wonderful to hear the exaggerations of danger in the country repeatedly brought forward, repeatedly contradicted, and always believed. In these circumstances, Lord J. Russell brings forward a proposition to disfranchise Grampound, and give the representation to Leeds. We all expected it to be treated with derision. Sir H. Ward was supposed to be ready, and Canning, evidently so. Suddenly, Lord Castlereagh yields this question (as far as it goes) of *radical reform*. It does little, but it promises much! Lord Castlereagh, Sir F. Burdett, and above all,

Lord Milton, are much improved in speaking. Canning appears to me gone off. How odious is this exercise of privilege. The sending Hobhouse to Newgate is supposed to have arisen from the desire of provoking Burdett to violence, that he might lose the very great credit he had gained by his last able and moderate speeches. In the House, he was sufficiently on his guard; but at the Crown and Anchor, he signed, as chairman, an address to Hobhouse, as violent as his enemies could wish. C. Wynne had certainly determined to move that he should be sent to Newgate; on Thursday, he thought the House too thin, and whilst he waited, either he altered his mind or was persuaded to abandon his intention.

I am afraid hydrophobia is become more
 January. prevalent than formerly in this coun-
 1820. try. Of its causes, we are at present
 utterly ignorant. Experience, I think, proves
 that it does not arise from heat, from cold, or
 from want of water. I believe, hitherto, it has
 never been cured. It is communicated by the
 saliva entering into the circulation of the blood;
 and, therefore, the person bitten is frequently
 saved by the saliva being wiped away from the
 teeth, by the clothing of the part bitten. Phy-
 sicians doubt whether caustics or even excision
 can be applied sufficiently speedily to save the

patient. I have conversed with a physician, who attended a girl at Leicester, fatally afflicted with this dreadful malady. Sir H. Halford related to me the particulars of the case of another girl, whom he constantly attended. A horse, at Beckingham, died last week frantic from the bite of a mad dog. Some years ago, in my own stable yard, I caressed a strange dog which looked very miserable ; it was a very large and powerful dog ; I afterwards heard that it was under the influence of the disorder, and had bitten several dogs that morning. Shortly after I left it, it bit a horse, in Stubton, which I attended, and which died furious. Both these horses drank freely, and the following very extraordinary facts result from all the information I have yet obtained : that horses and dogs, afflicted with the disorder, are furious and deprived of whatever supplies the place of reason, but have no fear of water, though occasionally unable to swallow it, from a swelling of the throat ; but human beings, thus afflicted, in general perfectly retain their reason, but are thrown into convulsions, more or less violent, by the sight of liquids.

Ten days before the death of the King, I
 Stubton,
 March, 1820. had informed my friends of this expected event, and that Parliament

would certainly be dissolved about the 25th February. I had no personal wish for a contest in the county, and I was resolved it should not be at my own expense. I was determined, too, not to be again a burthen on my private and personal friends only ; but I felt that it was due to those who had before supported me in the county, that they should have an opportunity of determining for themselves. The leaders delayed assembling to consult, until it was too late ; and though my friends had increased in number, they shewed little inclination to contribute their money. Some proposed that I should offer myself to those who would poll without creating expense ; but this I positively refused, seeing no advantage or credit from a plan which insured failure. At the county election, few (scarcely any) of my friends attended, as they knew nothing was to be done, and did not like witnessing the success of others. The Sheriff, under various pretences, refused to adjourn into the yard, and even there I should not have found a very favorable audience ; but that in the county court was most ferociously hostile, and none amongst them more so than Mr. Sheriff Corbett. He suffered every vulgar interruption to be given me ; and at last, repeatedly silenced me himself,

yielding alternately to his fears of the consequences, and begging me to proceed. Fred. Robinson, in a manly manner asserted my rights ; but both the candidates, by their indisposition or want of judgment, lost a fine opportunity of gaining credit with the county. To me, the scene was advantageous, for the attempt to speak in an assembly so constituted, must have been most irksome. I withdrew from the meeting, protesting, with the friends who had accompanied me, against the indignity with which I had been treated ; and have since published an address, in which the Sheriff is in no respect spared. I find he is not supported by any, the most violent.

A few days before the dissolution of Parliament, Thistlewood, and twenty or thirty others, were found armed in a hay-loft, ready to sally forth to massacre, as it is said, all the Ministers whilst at dinner. There can be no doubt these miscreants, urged by famine and profligacy, had resolved upon some atrocious crime. There can be as little doubt that men, so well known as Thistlewood and some others amongst them, were watched night and day ; and probably some spy amongst them fixed the day on which the crime should be committed. Could any day be more convenient than one imme-

diately before the dissolution ? When the King gave his consent, by commission, to the last bills Ministers had the audacity to put into his mouth, a libel on half his subjects, by endeavouring to connect this conspiracy with the Manchester and Yorkshire meetings, and make it a continuation of the necessity of the late restrictive acts. The violence of the ministerial party is beyond measure increased. No calumnies are spared ; every crime—the late conspiracy—the death of the Duke de Berry—all are openly charged upon the principles of those who support the whig principles. It does not seem, however, that they make much impression on the country. In the mean time, a noble revolution has taken place in Spain. Disgusted with the tyranny of the beloved Ferdinand, his troops have remembered they were citizens, and calmly declared for a free constitution, which they have at length obtained without bloodshed. The example of this gallant nation cannot be lost. It appears, however, that Ferdinand has only yielded to necessity ; that he has acted with his usual cowardice and perfidy ; and he probably only now watches the first opportunity to overthrow the new constitution. An opportunity I hope he will never find.

On Tuesday, the 28th March, a chameleon
 April 6, was sent me, about eleven inches in
 1820. length, tail included. It came in a
 wicker basket, covered with flannel; it was
 then entirely of a light yellow. I had it put into
 the pine stove. The next morning, I found
 it on the stem of a vine; it was then entirely
 of a bright green, like the leaves of the vine.
 These colours, however, are not from reflection,
 as they do not change immediately on removal.
 I have since always found it green, but, some-
 times, with many broad perpendicular stripes
 of a dark brown. Once, being repeatedly
 molested, I saw the bag of the under jaw swell
 to an enormous size, and become yellow, whilst
 the rest of the body was covered with multi-
 tudes of spots, yellow and brown, completely
 circular.

The house adjoining its abode being paint-
 ing, I moved it into a house for forcing cher-
 ries, but in the night it suffered so much from
 cold, that the next morning it appeared to be
 expiring. On being restored to its former resi-
 dence, it soon recovered; it was, however,
 three days without recovering its appetite. It
 now eats freely, and even voraciously, all flies,
 bees, &c. put within its reach: when apparently
 dying, it did not change colour. I know not
 the country from whence it came.

The crown of the chameleon does not differ from Buffon's *description* : the only points in which the animal differs are, that the openings of the membrane which covers the eye are perfectly circular, and that I have never found any grey colour upon it.

The chameleon continued in perfect health
 June 22, until this morning, when a stupid
 1820. under gardener destroyed him by hastily closing one of the lights on which he had climbed. He was brought from Brazil. During a journey of six months no food was given him, and it was a month longer before he recovered his appetite. His brother who travelled with him is at Exeter Change.

On the dissolution, the people every where showed a desire to elect men of independent principles, but under the present corrupt system, their power in that respect is small. Something, however, was gained, and more might have been gained, particularly in the Capital, where the exertions of the whigs were diverted by the anxiety to elect Lamb for Westminster, an anxiety in which I did not partake. There is also in the House of Commons a large floating party which, though it generally supports Ministers, is by no means under their control, and gives them much un-

easiness ; yet, this party has never interfered in favor of economy, or of liberty, or to diminish the enormous standing army. At the beginning of the Session, there seemed to me far too great a complaisance in the Opposition towards the new reign. Both Brougham and Tierney were strongly infected with it, and nothing could be done against the measures of Ministers. Tired with the repeated postponement of all important business, weakened by a most severe dysentery of two days, longing for the country, and anxious to attend the annual dinner of my cavalry who were much displeased with the second in command and dissatisfied with my absence, I came down for a week's enjoyment.

About ten days ago, the eloquent and amiable Grattan expired in London. In a dying state, he had the anxious wish of finishing his days, like Chatham, in a last parliamentary effort for his country. His friends justly opposed an imitation which would not have had the effect of the original, and it did not take place. Death has reconciled his enemies, and the gentleness of his disposition, as well as the unrivalled brilliancy of his oratory, are universally acknowledged. His patriotism had somewhat suffered in my estimation, by his having

latterly inclined with Plunkett to the Grenvilles. We have also lost Sir Joseph Banks, a man violent and vindictive, yet generous and capable of sincere friendship. Disliking learning, he left school to travel round the world. He was illiterate, acquainted with no language but his own, and that not in perfection. He possessed no science : for natural history he had only consulted Pennant, and in botany depended solely on his powerful memory ; yet, possessed of great wealth, with spirit and inclination to expend it in the promotion of science, and the encouragement of young artists, he made himself eminently useful in his line, and became honored and respected at home and abroad. So little is London the proper seat of an academy of sciences, that it will be found very difficult to fill the chair of the Royal Society with a proper president. I had almost all my life been on friendly terms with him.

The Session is on the point of closing, (not properly, indeed, the Session, as we
Stubton,
July 16.
are to have an adjournment and not a prorogation,) and a worse Session for the country we never yet had. The subservient feeling towards the new King, and in some the hope of succeeding to a tottering Administra-

tion, which had offended the King, made all attempts hopeless to oppose the extravagance of Ministers in almost every department ; and the arrival of the Queen totally put an end to all interest in, or attention to, any other subject.

The Queen had arrived near the coast, when she was met by Lord Hutchinson to treat with her on the part of the King and Brougham, who appears to have advised her to accept the terms proposed ; and above all, not to come to England. Had she taken this advice, she was lost. Alderman Wood went to bring her over. It was, however, her own decisive character, and the fear of being stopped by a messenger from Paris, which led her to resolve immediately to land in England, without even informing Brougham of her journey. Ministers never believed she would have taken this step, and were utterly unprepared for it. They treated her with every indignity ; money, indeed, they offered, but neither respect nor residence, and messages were next day sent to both Houses, to appoint secret committees to prejudge her case. The Commons obliged Ministers to negotiate, but they offered no terms but those already refused, and which nothing but acknowledged guilt could have accepted. Wil-

berforce carried a motion advising her to accept them ; but, supported by the universal indignation of the people against the injustice shown her, she indignantly refused them, and the Commons showed no disposition to give her further support. Without accepting the terms, she might, by her answer, have left the matter to the House of Commons ; and unless she has a very good case, this, I am persuaded, would have been her best course. On this occasion, Lord Lauderdale, the Hutchinsons, and others, have joined the Court, and even Lord Grey has opposed them less directly than I should have hoped. Had he shown the indignation I expected from him, at a course which appears to me to be a violation of every principle of justice, his powerful eloquence, backed by the influence of his high character, must have overturned all their measures. As it is, on the second reading of a bill of pains and penalties, we are to have a sort of trial before the Lords, who have already avowed by their votes a shameful partiality.

I was nominee for Colonel Hughes, but could not prevent his being unseated for the most imprudent system of treating. I brought down Pringle to fill the vacant seat, but Ostler, Hughes' agent had been before me, and taking

advantage of my absence, had pledged Thorold to neutrality, and brought forward Sir M. Cholmeley : thus have we been outwitted by a fool, and Grantham will be represented by the most intolerant bigot, unless he should be beat by Sir W. Manners, from whom we shall have but little better to expect. Sir W. Manners having refused to obey the Speaker's warrant, to give evidence before the committee, I was obliged to move for measures of rigour against him, which ended in his being lodged in Newgate.

The base subserviency of Ministers in lending themselves apparently against their opinions, to the illegal persecution of the Queen, and the total failure of their measures, have rendered them detested by the greater part of the nation. We shall soon see what will be their further conduct, and what their fate.

In the beginning of this month, I passed some time at Milton, to meet the Duke of Gloucester. This weak man (abating the anxiety for all the ceremonious attention he can obtain) is inoffensive and good humoured. The Bishop was much puzzled by Lord Fitzwilliam's good natured attention in asking him to dinner ; he said, rather publicly, that he could not dine at Milton, and then accepted

the invitation. He came in the morning, and violated all forms by seating himself; after pointing out to the royal guest as well as to the host and hostess, the chairs he allotted them. The next day he sent an excuse from the dinner, on account of an illness, of which his Physician told me there was no other evidence. The Duke was exceedingly eager on the politics of the day, and somewhat tedious in his long repeated dissertations upon them, generally taken from the newspapers.

There is something extraordinary and even new in the almost frantic violence with which the greater part of the clergy, and of the municipal officers, have opposed all the rejoicings of the people on the loss of the bill of pains and penalties against the Queen. It seems really as if they had wished to provoke riots to justify vengeance; and wherever their insults upon the people have created the slightest irregularity, they have no where, that I have heard of, foregone the pleasure of visiting it with their utmost resentment.

At Sleaford Quarter Sessions, where I presided, a *loyal declaration* was put into my hands by order of the Lord Lieutenant, signed already by several Magistrates at Falkingham. I read it to the other Magis-

January,
1821.

trates, and then declared that I objected, at all times, to the introduction of politics into a court of justice ; and that I particularly objected to this, as a most atrocious and unfounded libel on the greater part of the community. Of five other Magistrates, one refused with indignation to sign it, two approved, and two more, after expressing their entire disapprobation of its appearance, signed it ; four more, who came after we had gone into the court, also signed it. A very long trial took place of three persons charged with assaulting constables. The Magistrates had permitted an illumination on the termination of the bill of pains and penalties, but had prohibited the band of music ; the band, however, entered the town, preceded by rows of men armed with sticks, and attended by a great crowd. The constables attacked them and got beat. Tallents exerted *great ability* against, and Mr. Bromhead, one of the Magistrates, great violence. In summing up the evidence, and charging the jury, (a very fair one) I blamed the attack of the constables as the sole cause of the riot : but refrained from calling it, as perhaps I ought to have done, *illegal* ; because this was so different from the evident opinions of at least eight of the other Magistrates, that I thought it would take

away all weight from my opinion, and increase the rigour of the sentence. Mr. Bromhead vented a violent philippick against my charge, in which he accused me of misdirecting the jury, and *unnecessarily introducing politics* into a court of justice. He was not supported by one Magistrate. Edward Chaplin declared his opinion, that I had not, in any respect, merited the attack, and Mr. Bromhead begged my pardon. Handley, the Magistrate who had directed the constables, sat on the bench, and even called for a severer punishment; it was only when he found his *vote* would be useless, he thought proper to decline giving it. One of the men was acquitted, the other two sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

The King told Lady Fitzwilliam, he knew Lord Castlereagh had formerly drank to the rope that should hang the last King. I take his Lordship to be as little sincere as the late Mr. Pitt in any political principle.

At the famous congress, the Kings were ready to do anything demanded by this country. Much was then thrown away by Lord Castlereagh's total want of information, and the want of any person about him to prompt him; this ignorance was so shameful, that even Lord Stewart was considered by the con-

tinental Ministers, as evincing the greater share of knowledge of the two brothers.

We cannot be surprised that Austria dreads the progress of freedom in Italy : her government is deservedly detested in every part of it ; not the slightest attention is shewn to the interests or the feelings of the natives ; their resources are carried out of the country, and no Italian ever promoted. The Duke of Gloucester says, that at Venice, a house become a heap of ruins, is of more value than one in good repair ; the pulling down of houses being prohibited.

During the last Session, a committee of
Stubton,
1821. about six Members sat constantly to obtain all the financial information they could. Hume, one of them, used the fruits of their labours in opposing the extravagance of Ministers. He was enthusiastically supported by the nation ; and though nothing was carried in the House, it has forced upon Ministers a very considerable reduction in many departments since the prorogation, though very far below the necessities of the country.

When a prosecution was threatened against Hunt, for his conduct at Manchester, Scarlett told his noble friends at Milton, and myself,

that it would be very curious if Hunt should be punished for the only time he ever was right. Soon afterwards he was called upon as king's counsel, to take the lead in the prosecution, and successfully performed his task. Scarlett brought forward his poor bill, but it remains for decision next Session. It goes too far, or not far enough; for it is in vain to combat the mischievous principle of compulsory relief, unless you annihilate it: whilst it remains in action, the salutary principle of voluntary relief can never be expected to operate.

Reform was brought forward by Lambton, with the prospect of a very respectable division; unfortunately, it came on prematurely in an empty House, when no one expected it. This debate, which lasted two days, was remarkable for a most severe and personal attack by Hobhouse on Canning, in resentment for a former allusion to him by Canning. Canning is supposed to have intended to reply to him at the time when the debate abruptly closed, and to have been prevented by Hobhouse's momentary absence; it happened, however, that he went abroad, without having taken any notice of this rude blow. Canning appears to me to be lost, and Ministers have, perhaps, found out the truth, that they derive no advantage from his support.

I find my friends in this county much disappointed by my silence during this Session. I was several times unfortunate in being unable to find an opportunity, often very difficult. I gave notice of bringing forward the question for restoring the Queen's name to the Liturgy, but it was done without Tierney's concurrence. T. Smith came down the same day with the petition from the City, and I was obliged to give it up to him. During this Session, Tierney, from ill health, gave up the management of the Opposition, and had no successor. The question relating to the Queen took up much time.

The death of Bonaparte created scarcely any sensation, either in this country or even in France. Far greater was the impression made by the sudden death of the Queen. The court, indeed, treated her memory with contempt; and she was hurried with indecent haste to her grave. The citizens of London, determined that the funeral procession should pass through the Capital, and were opposed by the military. An Officer was seen taking a deliberate and successful aim at an individual, unprovoked by immediate danger, and remains unpunished. A Magistrate is obliged to resign, apparently for too much disposition to prevent the effusion

of blood; and Sir Robert Wilson's brilliant and acknowledged services, are not sufficient to save him from being cashiered for a similar crime. In the meantime, the King has not even the decency to wait for the interment of the Queen, before he exhibits himself in banquets and processions in Ireland; a measure which at any other season would have been just and politic.

My house of industry prospers beyond my
Stubton,
Nov. 1821. most sanguine expectations. Seventeen parishes partake of its advantages; it is governed with humanity and firmness. Its population is from fifty to eighty only; all are employed, the children taken care of and educated, and the poor rates reduced about fifty per cent. Yet I am no friend to the principle, having adopted the measure almost from necessity. I am aware, that unless well managed and actively superintended, it must become like many others, a source of tyranny; and it is, therefore, with some concern, I perceive the example likely to be imitated. With us, the seventeen guardians always attend the monthly meetings, committees chosen from them superintend each department, and when in the country, I never fail to exercise my authority as visitor.

Some black game have been sent me from Scotland : every direction given us has been followed, but the want of their native berries was fatal.

The kangaroos are remarkably exact in their time of bringing forth. They had been a year without a male, and the one I procured, at length, from Exeter Change, had been a long time alone ; yet, though he arrived in June, his presence was useless till February, and the three females all produced at their usual time. These animals give suck in an unusual manner. I have seen one two years old sucking its mother, each of them having a young one in the pouch.

A milk white starling, bred in the nest of a common one at Brandon, and a dun crow similarly hatched at Denton, have been sent me this year, and are doing well. A black Poland cock belonging to Mr. Kendal, of Barrowby, was seized last Winter by a fox, but rescued from him desperately wounded, and stripped of half his feathers. He has now become perfectly white.

Sheridan, a year or two before his death, was found by the police drunk in the street. On being asked his name, he told them under injunctions of secrecy, “ W. Wilberforce.”

The deaths of Sheridan and Courtenay took place about the same time. They were both anxiously attended in their last moments by Sir J. Mackintosh. He told me the former had never read, and trusted entirely to his knowledge of the world, his wit, and prodigious memory. Courtenay was a man of deep erudition : both died in great poverty. The Regent left his *companion* Sheridan to pass his time in a spunging house, but was shamed into sending him a paltry sum of money when it was too late. The money was returned.

An attempt to establish free constitutions in
 1822. Italy, and ultimately, probably, to unite that unfortunate country, which began under promising circumstances, has, at length, totally failed. The weak King of Naples acceded to the revolution, and swore to maintain it ; but was foolishly permitted to attend the congress of the Holy Alliance, and returned a traitor. His eldest son may be well excused in the difficult situation in which he was placed ; he has not, indeed, shewn himself a hero, but, without support amongst his counsellors or courage in his army, he would only have sacrificed all future hope of benefiting his country, by an obstinate and vain perseverance. When the Prince de Corignan, and

the force of Piedmont, gave up the cause, no resource remained ; for alas, England, bound by every consideration of interest and of honour to support them, is now the most cruel enemy to liberty. Another opportunity has offered for the Holy Alliance to display its principles, and it has worthily availed itself of it. The Greeks, driven to despair by the oppression of the Turks, and no doubt encouraged secretly by Russia, are making noble efforts to assert their rights. Yet these magnanimous Sovereigns, in effect at least, espouse the cause of the Turks, proclaim the injustice of christian slaves revolting against their masters, or even defending their lives against them ; and our own Government, so far from giving to the Greeks that succour which is called for by every virtuous feeling, does not even preserve a strict neutrality. Lord Londonderry has the effrontery to justify the barbarity of the Turks, and calumniate the Greeks, in the House of Commons ; and such is the wretched situation to which the country is reduced, that the people acquiesce rather than incur a war.

In this Session, I was nominee on the Boston committee. On the question of unseating Ellis, there could be no difference of opinion ; but Johnson, not having made the declaration

required by the act, I had so little hope of his being declared the sitting member, that I would have given up the petition and moved a new writ, had I been able to do so. In the mean time, Ministers, not dreaming of the event, employed no counsel, the principal witness against us lost his head; the nominee chosen by the committee had neither zeal nor knowledge; and a hundred circumstances combined to favour Johnson. On the question being put, the votes given were in his favour; and the opposing nominee declined dividing the committee. I believe, had he done otherwise, he would have carried his question, and declared the seat vacant. Three had been silent who would all, I think, have voted with him; I, who was one, must have done so; it was my duty to advocate Johnson's cause, but to vote conscientiously.

Hume, in the former Session, had done
 July. some good, but in this, his eternal interference on every question, and the many tedious hours he occupied in attempting trifling savings, only disgusted many from attending, and prevented more important questions from being brought forward. The climax of his vulgar assurance was, the bringing forward the Irish tithe question.

In our county we had two county meetings : the first for retrenchment and diminution of taxes,—thinly attended ; the second, somewhat more fully, for reform ; but at this we should have been called a mere rabble had not Chaplin and his friends, amongst whom were squires and clergy, rather unwisely attended. The meetings, however, were useful to the cause ; and I hope we gather strength, and shall be more numerous, and offer a more general representation of the county at our next assembly.

The distress of the country has increased to a degree unparalleled, and I am only astonished at the patience with which it is borne ; especially as it falls principally on those who have, in fact, the whole strength in their own hands, if they knew how to wield it. For the commercial interests, though far from prosperous, are said to be improving ; and the manufacturers are in general employed, though at low wages, and affording small profit to their employers. It seems to me evident, that the main cause of our distress arises from our being taxed far beyond our means ; but it is aggravated by the effects of Peel's bill. It was certainly necessary to return to the just standard of exchange ; but as neither Peel nor any

other person in the House of Commons foresaw the effects of the measure, and were, besides, misled by the delusive theories of Ricardo, the measure was enacted, without being accompanied by those regulations which would have diminished the severity of its consequences. And what should those regulations have been ? I see none effective, but a reduction of the interest of the national debt. Where would be the injustice of this ? I doubt myself the justice of contracting it, and of robbing posterity of their income and consequent prosperity. But the best justification is the *absolute necessity*. That such a measure would create great individual misery I allow, but I am convinced the delay in having recourse to it, creates far greater misery every day, and at last it *must* be *resorted* to.

All the reductions in expense made by Ministers, added to those made by Hume, always too late, are too trifling to afford any relief ; they do not even prevent the taxes, which remain operating with increasing pressure.

Probably these evils will only increase till we have a thorough reform of the system, but this is perhaps not very distant ; it is called for by the great majority, and distress is constantly increasing our numbers. Parliament must

grant it, or it will be reformed with a vengeance. In all probability, Parliament will give way by degrees ; and every point gained will assist us in gaining more. The disfranchisement of Grampound, and giving the representation to Yorkshire, is, in itself, nothing ; yet it shews the conviction of Ministers themselves, that something must necessarily be conceded to the popular voice, and it establishes a strong argument for more extensive reform.

Death of Lord Londonderry. This man, like Pitt, had the most perfect contempt for all public principle ; like him he was arrogant and ignorant of public affairs, and determined to make everything subservient to his personal ambition. Though he had not the eloquence of Pitt, yet he had acquired the perfect knowledge of the House of Commons ; was daring or temperate, according to the occasion ; knew when to be firm, and when to yield what he had before declared he could never be brought to relinquish. Pitt was disinterested with regard to the acquisition of money for himself, though he connived at the most shocking plunder of the country by his friends. Here the comparison fails, at least it is somewhat difficult to account for the immense property said to have been acquired by

October,
1822.

Lord Londonderry's father, during the administration of his son.

Lord Londonderry was the constant supporter of foreign tyranny, and the bitter enemy of every liberal principle, at home or abroad. No man ever brought more calamities upon his country, unless Pitt himself; and whoever be his successor, the nation cannot but profit by his death. That successor is Canning. The present Lord Hertford betted in the spring, that Canning would not go to India; yet he could not foresee the only event which could have prevented it. Canning is become of late more cautious and moderate; yet, hated by the King and by many of his colleagues,—without much influence in the House of Commons, except that of Minister,—without any character in the country,—I see not how his elaborate and artificial eloquence, now perhaps almost exhausted, is to carry him through his undertaking, most arduous as, I trust, he will find it.

This spring, died Lady Fitzwilliam: a woman of a superior understanding, virtuous, benevolent, active in domestic life, and thoroughly understanding the real interests of her country. It was delightful to see the perfect harmony in which she, her husband, and Lord and Lady Milton, constantly dwelt together.

Lady Fitzwilliam's domestic character and affections, made her little fond of strange society. To know her and esteem her as she deserved, it was necessary to see her in private life. I certainly trembled for the effect such a loss might have on a husband, who had enjoyed uninterrupted happiness with her for half a century ; but his own excellent disposition, and the many consolations he finds in the devoted affection of his children, enables him to support the blow.

Sitting at the quarter sessions at Sleaford, this year, with many other Magistrates, we were interrupted by a most tremendous crash, accompanied by a fiery light, and a strong smell like that of gunpowder. It was caused by a ball of fire which struck a small house in sight of our audience, though rather behind our backs. The house was much shattered, and the chimnies thrown down into the street. Part of the meteor passed down a chimney into a little room in which eight persons were at dinner ; it broke the windows, went through them or the door into the street, and appeared to be extinguished in a puddle of water, from which a great column of smoke arose. None of the persons were hurt ; no substance seems to have fallen with the ball.

A chameleon, I brought down with me from
 October. London, in March, died this month.

It had appeared very healthy till lately, when its appetite fell off, and it appeared restless and generally on the ground. It was perhaps looking for a place in which it could repose itself for the winter ; but it must always be very difficult in this country to provide it a hibernacle sufficiently cool for its purpose, and yet warm enough to preserve its life.

I received this day a pair of black swans,
 Nov. 13. bred at Wentworth, probably in 1820.

We have sent Lord St. John to Harrow school. I was inclined to prefer Eton, but his father had signified a strong dislike to that school ; and probably Eton, with a tutor to himself, might have encouraged ideas of consequence and expense, which the moderate income he is likely to enjoy would render dangerous. The great quantity of pocket money boys now carry with them to public schools, certainly leads to many evils, and yet none would wish his son should be in a worse situation than others in this respect ; and by this feeling, the misfortune is gradually increased. Yet, with all its inconveniences, a British public school affords, in my opinion, an education far superior to any other I have ever

heard of. My first entry into the world was at the University of Cambridge, but I was first taught to think for myself by visiting foreign countries ; and it has always appeared to me, that no species of instruction is so well calculated to expand the mind, as that obtained by travelling abroad ; particularly if that mind has been narrowed by a confined education.

My uncle, Sir Richard Heron, was born in the year 1724 ; he was the youngest of four sons who arrived at maturity. My grandfather possessed a strong and vigorous mind, the highest honour and integrity, a sufficient portion of pride, and a temper somewhat soured by the reflection, that he was fallen from the situation which his family had formerly occupied. Their fortunes had suffered greatly in the civil wars, and he had himself retired to Newark with what remained. His eldest and favorite son, John, had received an excellent education, and is reported to have been an accomplished scholar, a circumstance which rendered the conduct of a vulgar and profligate spouse less tolerable to him : he carried her abroad and died broken hearted.

My grandfather grew tired of giving expensive educations to his very numerous family, and that advantage was denied to his younger

sons. The losses his family had sustained in the royal cause, had not diminished his attachment to it; and on his death bed, he enjoined his sons never to desert it under any circumstances. To the impression which this solemn injunction made on their minds, I attribute much of their courtly politics, so greatly at variance with their liberal opinions, and in many respects, patriotic dispositions. My grandfather, however, was not a jacobite; for when the Pretender had reached Derby, he sent the females of his family to London; and with his four sons, took the most active share in preparing to defend Newark. His own four horses drew the ladies to London; by great exertions they reached Bennington the first day, the carriage being overturned in the course of the journey. A pistol went off close to the ear of his daughter Ann, who remained ever afterwards almost totally deaf. Sir Richard followed the profession of the law and his opinion was in great repute; his line was not a brilliant one, being that of a chamber counsel, or special pleader. Early in life a strong mutual attachment was formed between him and a Miss Hall, but as they neither of them had a farthing, prudence required the sacrifice of their inclinations. She then mar-

ried an old man, Stephen Tompson, of Yorkshire. When Stephen died, Sir Richard had acquired a competency ; he then married her, and they lived happily till his death. Her portrait is faithfully drawn in the Bath guide, under the name of the Widow Quickclocket.

Bishop Warburton conceived so high an opinion of Sir Richard's natural abilities, and so great a friendship for him, that he offered to shut himself up with him, and to do his utmost to assist him in the attainment of classical learning. I know not why it was declined. In the progress of time, Sir Richard acquired from his profession an income sufficient to enable him to live in respect and comfort, in Grosvenor Square ; when, in 1778, his friend, John, Earl of Buckinghamshire, being appointed Lieutenant of Ireland, desired him to go with him as his secretary. Sir Richard took upon himself the office with some reluctance, because he was totally unused to public speaking ; he filled it, however, with honour to himself and advantage to Ireland, in times the most difficult and turbulent. His hereditary attachment to royal power yielded to his benevolence and integrity ; he was remarkable for his disinterestedness, and returned to England after a four years' Administration, much

more highly esteemed by the people whom he had governed, than by the court which had employed him. He was but scantily reimbursed for the profession he had abandoned, by the place of collector of customs, at Cork, from which he never received more than five hundred pounds per annum, though, at his death, it was found to have been worth two thousands pounds per annum ; he had terrible quarrels with the Lord Lieutenant, and it is wonderful how they could ever have agreed for a moment. Sir Richard was warm and sincere ; Lord Buckinghamshire cold, haughty, and insolent to the utmost degree. Their ladies, who lived in great friendship, once, at least, interfered and prevented the worst consequences.

As Sir Richard's character became more known, it became more respected. The present King treated him with great personal attention, and frequently consulted him. On one occasion, his Majesty asked him for some information on our revolution ; he was probably somewhat tedious as well as honest in his account of it, for the King, who had been absent in mind, suddenly turned upon him and said, not very royally, "Damn you, Sir, do you take me for a jacobin ?" An explanation followed,

and the pupil was sufficiently shocked at his error. He lived in constant friendship with the Irish Foster, and, I believe, was the cause of his undertaking to lead the Prince's party in the House of Commons ; but either from the impracticability, or the versatility of Foster, this arrangement lasted only one week, and Foster joined Pitt. During that week, having spent a morning with Foster and Sir Richard, in Lee's garden, the latter was almost frightened by our free opinions on political subjects, in which Foster had his full share ; but in a few days all was changed, and I never more had any opportunity of private intercourse with him. My uncle had strong feelings ; his resentments were bitter, but rare, and he could see few faults in his friends. He at one time shewed some dislike of my political tenets ; and some anger, for I know not what supposed offence, at the time of my marriage. Matters were in time explained, and I ever after lived with him on the most affectionate terms ; experiencing from him all the active services of a friend, the counsels and solicitude of a parent. He died in his 80th year, and will for ever be regretted by me.

Sir R. Wilson is gallant and generous, but weak and vain. His best act was, the saving the life of La Valette,

Stubton,
March, 1823.

which was entirely his own plan ; but then, it was necessary for him to send a circumstantial account of it to Lord Grey, from Paris, by the post. The letter was intercepted, and hence followed the trials and punishment of Bruce, Hutchinson, and himself ; but for this foolish letter, there would have been no trace of the transaction.

Sir R. Wilson is gone to assist Spanish
 August. independence. Can success fail in so holy a cause ?

Who is to be looked upon as the greatest General produced by ancient or modern times ? In considering this question, the character must include the Statesman. I should certainly fix on Hannibal as the first. He is charged with two errors, I think, unjustly ; first, that he did not march to Rome after the battle of Cannæ ; but he probably would by that measure have excited an enthusiastic resistance, which might have defeated him ; and secondly, he might reasonably have supposed, that his brother Asdrubal could not have been so negligent in an enemy's country, as to suffer himself to be surprised and destroyed from want of ordinary caution. Next to Hannibal, I am inclined to consider Napoleon as the most able General and Statesman known

in history. He committed an error by invading Russia too late in the season ; yet, but for the burning of Moscow, he might have succeeded. Had he done justice to Poland, his retreat would have even then been safe ; but his *patriotism* and love of *freedom* had no other foundation or guide than his own ambition. The Duke of Wellington is a very great General, though, I think, inferior to those I have named ; and, besides, he is in no respects a Statesman.

This Session of Parliament began under favorable circumstances for Ministers. Canning had got rid of Sidmouth and Vansittart, who were a disgrace even to such a cabinet ; and he had also relieved himself of the unpopularity of Bragge Bathurst, in the House of Commons. Robinson, who became Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a fair and intelligible exposition ; and gave some satisfaction to the country by a diminution of the taxes. Canning assumed the appearance of liberal ideas with regard to Spain, and though he was belied by the papers presented to the House, and evidently had never intended to act up to his profession ; yet, this was sufficient to disarm opposition for a time, and to satisfy a people, unfortunately as little in earnest as

himself, and without any just conception of the immense importance to all nations of the cause of Spain. If any further proof were wanting of the insincerity of Ministers on this subject, we need only look to Portugal, where a counter revolution has taken place, which the slightest exertion of influence on their part might have prevented; and, indeed, such was the oscillation of the French counsels, that it seems pretty evident, any exhibition of firmness on our part would have prevented this calamitous reaction. But surely, in this enlightened age, so profligate a conspiracy of Sovereigns, against all people and against all honest political principles, can never ultimately succeed. By treachery at home, and by the astonishing apathy of all ranks in England, it appears likely to obtain a temporary success; but I will never despair of the cause of freedom.

In the spring, Yorkshire took the lead in an effort to obtain parliamentary reform. Lincolnshire and many other counties followed, but we were few and ill supported. The attempt failed, and it must be owned, the people of England take but little interest in questions regarding their own rights. The House of Commons was principally occupied with an

enquiry into the official conduct of Plunkett, and of an orange Sheriff of Dublin. Ministers were on the point of determining to support Plunkett, when the Chancellor, jealous of his talents and rising ascendancy, decided them to move the previous question ; thus leaving his conduct and character unvindicated.

In the House of Commons, however, the cause of reform is gaining ground ; and whenever the people of England exert themselves manfully, and with some unanimity for it, I shall feel pretty sanguine in my expectation of success. But the fear of radicalism on one side, and the equivocal aid of Hunt and Cobbet on the other, at present paralyze our exertions. At Lincoln, old Cartwright attended and divided us by a radical amendment, in which I had the mortification to see him seconded by my friend Johnson. Cartwright was treated as he ought, with all the attention and respect due to his age and character. Johnson expected success, but they had not the support of one in fifty.

In September, died Lord Yarborough ; and
December. occasioned a vacancy in the representation of the county of Lincoln. I felt in some measure bound to offer myself, but was not in a situation to incur the heavy

expense of a contest. For some time it was thought I should meet with no opposition, but hatred rankled in the heart of Pelham : without political principle, he remembered only that his pride had been offended, and his purse exhausted by my former effort. A stranger, Sir W. Ingleby, offered himself, and Pelham's support was his only hope. In Parliament, Sir W. Ingleby had been a tory ; and his principles in other respects were now doubtful, but he was a radical reformer. Pelham is an unwilling convert to moderate reform, and professes to be a whig. He adopted Ingleby with a zeal, and supported him with an arrogance, which disgusted many. To please his patron, Sir William began with insulting me in his address ; a tone for which he constantly apologised, but which he never abandoned. Had I persevered, I might have been successful ; but the expenditure might have destroyed our future comfort. I resigned before the publication of Sir William's first address, and then, concluding him to be a whig, I determined to support him against any man of opposite principles ; and, in fact, I was fearful that Sir R. Sheffield, a man deservedly popular, but a tory, might be chosen : this intention of mine procured Sir William hasty promises of support

from Lord Milton and Sir John Thorold. The conduct and addresses of Sir W. Ingleby, and a further enquiry into his former political conduct, together with the offensive dictation of his patron, created a strong desire to oppose him ; but no candidate was to be found. S. Wells, of Huntingdon, declared his determination to nominate Sir J. Thorold ; and, notwithstanding the reluctance of the latter, he was, at length, nominated by Colonel Johnson, and supported by all my political friends in the county. It was impossible to succeed without either a candidate or money, yet we polled above fifteen hundred votes ; and such was the disinclination of the county to chose the stranger, that, with a profuse expenditure, a host of lawyers, and the great body of the clergy, a less number of freeholders was polled in ten days than had voted in three at the contest of 1818. Ingleby, having conducted himself towards me in a manner equally unjustifiable, ungentlemanlike, and unprovoked, was treated by me with the most unqualified severity and contempt as he deserved.

I incline to believe, that Canning was not unwilling to have taken proper measures with regard to the invasion of Spain, had he been supported by the country, against the zeal for

despotism, so evident in the court and amongst his colleagues. The least vigour on our part must have been successful, for it is evident, that the French long hesitated and feared to strike, until they saw our Parliament inclined to a most disgraceful neutrality. It is true, the constitutionalists in Spain made a poor defence ; but what could they do when deserted by all mankind ? The affairs of Greece afford some consolation : alone and unassisted, Greece has fought out her own emancipation, and if she has now any danger to fear, it is from Russia and not from Turkey.

With regard to Spanish America, the speech of the President of the United States has put an end to all serious cause for fear ; the royalists, unaided, cannot long offer essential opposition to their independence, and Europe will not now dare to interfere against them.

Canning's internal policy is certainly far superior to anything the tories have ever given us before ; let him go on in this course, and opposition will dwindle into nothing. Peace, and the present prosperity of the country, are also greatly against us. It is true, that great inroads have been made upon our liberties, the people are still virtually unrepresented, and the Catholics are yet denied the enjoyment

of their rights ; but gradually the latter grievance will, I think, be, at no distant period, remedied, though the people of England care little either about the rights of the Catholics or their own.

Within the last two or three years, died the last male direct descendant of Oliver Cromwell. He was well known to my father and to Sir Abraham Hume, who lived near him ; they represented him as a worthy man of mild manners, much resembling in character his immediate ancestor Henry, Lieutenant of Ireland. Early in life his pecuniary circumstances were narrowed, but latterly he possessed a comfortable income. He was desirous of leaving his name to his son in law, a Mr. Russell, and applied for his Majesty's permission that Russell should assume it ; but the old King positively refused it, always saying, "No, no, no more Cromwells." It certainly affords a strong proof of the mildness of our laws, or rather, perhaps, of the execution of them, that the descendants of Oliver Cromwell should have enjoyed their protection ; and those of the Duke of Monmouth should live under them in affluence and power.

It must be nearly forty years since I met at
 January, the house of the Comte de Durfort,
 1825. near Tours, the famous Pablos Olla-

vidés, who had then recently escaped from the Inquisition, in Spain. He was a man of a most commanding figure, and gentle, pleasing, and unassuming manners. He played at cards, talked much, but seemed to avoid all serious subjects. It appeared to me, that he was combating a disposition to melancholy, very natural in his situation : it was whispered that he had been tortured in the Inquisition, and I imagined I saw traces of it in his countenance, but certainly none in his person. He was so wretched at being separated from his family, that he wrote a bigoted book on religion, by which he obtained a recall from banishment. One cannot avoid lamenting such a weakness, or participating in the amiable feelings to which he yielded. He died at an advanced age, shortly before the first French invasion of Spain.

The late Lord Powerscourt kept hounds near Dublin ; he persuaded the Young Duke of Dorset to go out with them, and encouraged him to take a leap, assuring him, the horse he had lent him would carry him safely over the wall : the Duke was thrown and killed. Lord Powerscourt was so dreadfully shocked at this accident, that it created an aberration of mind, which gradually increased. He was chosen

one of the Irish representative Peers, made a very insane speech, and afterwards died about eight years after the death of the Duke.

In the Autumn of last year, Canning moved
Stubton,
1825. the exclusion of Lord Sidmouth from the Cabinet, on the consitutional ground, that he occupied no responsible office ; being outvoted, he yielded, but said, that if the objection he had urged did not apply to Lord Sidmouth, it ought not to exclude another individual whose services, he thought, might be very beneficial to the country. The Chancellor, alarmed at this, withdrew his opposition ; and Lord Sidmouth was dismissed from the Cabinet.

In Parliament, the more liberal commercial system introduced by Ministers, and the acknowledgment, by Canning, of the new South American States, weakened the Opposition, and even diminished the inclination to oppose ; and the only remaining contest of importance seemed to be between Canning on one side, and the old Chancellor on the other : the hoary enemy of every liberal principle, Lord Liverpool, vacillating between the two. The most interesting question was that of Catholic emancipation, in which the Duke of York distinguished himself by his violence and folly.

Burdett, to whom the question was entrusted, brought it forward with ability and judgment. He accepted, however, a compromise of very doubtful policy ; in consequence of which, the bill for emancipation was to be accompanied by two others, one for the making a provision for the Catholic clergy, the other to disfranchise the small freeholders, who were stated to have been fraudulently created. There were many favorable circumstances, such as the change of opinion amongst the most zealous opponents ; yet, after having passed the Commons, the bill was thrown out in the Lords by a large majority : this unfortunate result, was chiefly to be ascribed to the virulent opposition of Lord Liverpool.

My black swans have hatched four young ones, and brought them up with care and success. I believe they are the first black swans, bred in England, that have reproduced.

Since the last contest for this county, the self-appointed committee, which conducted the unsuccessful Opposition, has occasionally met at Sleaford ; but it was evident, that the spirit of the yeomanry could not be roused when in a state of agricultural prosperity, and amongst the gentry little spirit ever existed. I had acceded, not, I believe,

September,
1825.

very wisely, to a negotiation with Lord Hervey, who immediately declined being a candidate. I thought at least it might prevent or postpone the fatal step which I saw ready to be adopted; accordingly, at the last meeting, the least numerous of all, my old and worthy friend, Col. Johnson, was proposed as a candidate by a few obscure individuals; opposed by the few gentlemen who belonged to the committee, and by none more strenuously than myself. He has most unfortunately accepted the little enviable post, on grounds wholly radical; and the contemptible cry of aristocratical combination thus dividing and ruining the party, and putting an end, for many years to come, to all hope of "the independence of the county," for the promotion of which, the committee was first professed to be formed. At the time this resolution was taken, the dissolution of Parliament was generally believed to be at hand. The cabinet council has since met and postponed it for the present year: a circumstance very unfavourable to Johnson's situation.

I was consulted in November or December on a proposed association of the agricultural interests. I did not much approve this, but advised a county meeting, which I will never do again in Winter. We had one, miserably

attended, at which I carried a moderate petition ; but they have also established their association, which I shall not attend, as I neither agree with them in approving the present corn laws, nor approve their applying the terms of gross misrepresentation to their antagonists, on a fair subject of difference of opinion ; and on which those terms might, with equal justice, be retaliated.

March, 1826. Last Autumn, I sent my large male emu to Cross, of Exeter Change, and received from him a young pair, two years old, and a pair of Poland cranes. I had before received from him a pair of Balearic cranes, and I have sent him, within two years, two pairs of kangaroos, four pairs of gold pheasants, and a pair of black swans ; having besides given of the three last to my friends.

September, 1826. Mrs. Chamberlain brought me, from Brazil, a pair of whistling ducks, small and very beautiful. They are different from any I have seen described. She also had for me, a pair of very large black birds, apparently of the genus *crax* ; but of these, one escaped from her on board the ship, and the other pined away. I received only the head : it does not agree with any description in Buffon, Linnæus, or Cuvier. The most satisfac-

tory circumstance in the menagerie is, to see so many animals find their proper relative situation, without any dangerous quarrelling ; excepting between some of the male pheasants of the same kind. Chamberlain once sent me, what in Brazil is called the royal falcon, a bird between the eagle and the vulture, but different from either. It arrived safe at Liverpool, but the person to whom it was consigned sold it to Lord Stanley. With him, I had no difficulty after I had traced it, but before he could send it me, it died in a fit. It is described as of great size ; and is supposed to be the same bird of a different sex, with that called the sabine eagle, at the horticultural gardens, but much larger.

In March or April, the committee, at Sleaford, again assembled ; when, in concert with Thorold, and a few other friends, I proposed to rescind the resolution by which Johnson had been declared a candidate. Being outvoted, we withdrew our names from the committee, which met only once more ; and then gave up their unavailing opposition, unsupported as it was by the people, or by any party in the county, excepting those calling themselves radicals, who are, probably, fewer in this than in any other part of England.

Johnson had become particularly unpopular, by following the opinions of Cobbet. He was and is my highly valued friend ; but I never suffer private feelings to interfere with, what I believe to be, my public duties.

Before the meeting of Parliament, in February last, a tremendous mercantile alarm had arisen in the country, attended with great distress in all parts ; and most particularly amongst the manufacturing population. Many of the country banks failed ; and Government attempted, very unjustly, to throw upon them the odium of having greatly encouraged (which they certainly had not done) the absurd speculations of joint stock companies. It was not very easy to ascertain the causes of such general distress : a distress not confined to this country, or even to Europe, and still more difficult to apply a remedy. Of the first, Ministers appear entirely ignorant ; and the second, they scarcely attempted ; and this, perhaps, was the best course they could pursue. They seem not unwilling to let it be thought aggravated by the corn laws ; yet, corn has never of late borne a high price. To some temporary admission of foreign corn they have already had recourse, and menace us with importation on a permanent system after the

next Session ; and they have already taken measures for diminishing the amount of our paper currency. Are they then convinced of the necessity of resorting to the “equitable adjustment” ? or in other words, the forcible diminution of the national debt. If this be not a part of the intended system, it is insane ; for it is utterly impossible, that the interest of our debt, and the expenses of our overgrown establishments, can be defrayed with a reduced currency and reduced prices.

The Duke of York, and the Chancellor, had determined to oppose the measures relating to corn ; but, on the day appointed, the Duke of York, who, ill as he was, had gone to the House of Lords for that purpose, there received a letter from the King, desiring him to desist from his opposition, as it would embarrass his administration. The Duke complied, and left the House ; the Chancellor saw his danger, but took care not to provoke it. On the subject of the corn laws, Lord Milton and I were completely divided ; and we spoke frequently on the subject with great warmth. I thought it for them, and not for me, to determine whether such a disagreement was sufficient to dissolve our political union ; yet, I thought if I put forward this consideration, my resigna-

tion might be merely considered as intended to be refused. I determined, therefore, to put it on private and personal grounds, which were not without some weight with me. The real cause, however, was guessed ; and after a long and most friendly conversation with Lord Milton, I was pressed in the kindest and handsomest manner, to continue to sit for Peterborough. Lord Milton also told me, of which I was not before aware, that his father agreed with me on the corn laws.

It was supposed, that the want of money and the precarious state of the King's health, would diminish the anxiety for seats in Parliament. It turned out otherwise, and I believe there were never so many contests, or so many changes. The most important questions are, whether Canning and the Catholic question are gainers by the dissolution. The Catholic question has certainly lost a few in England, but I hope has gained rather more in Ireland. Canning must, I think, be considerably stronger by the change ; but the approaching change of the Heir Apparent will, probably, contribute more to strengthen both. My colleague, Scarlett, who has in general the worst information of any man I know, told us that Cobbet, Waller, Hunt, and Wilkes,

would certainly be in the new Parliament. The last is returned, but so disgraced that he can do nothing ; the three former are excluded. Sir F. Burdett too hastily engaged to subscribe to bring in Cobbet ; and as his subscription was likely to produce many more, it is surprising that, with this assistance, he did not succeed ; but his conduct, as a candidate, was violent and odious ; he did not even show in that situation any marks of talent. Burdett, with whom I remonstrated for subscribing, told me he wished to see him in Parliament because he thought it would expose him in his true colours ; and I cannot but think he was a little seduced by the magnanimity of forgetting his personal treachery to him. I, in some measure, shared the first of these reasons for wishing to see Cobbet returned to Parliament ; but this is no longer a motive with me, he is sufficiently exposed by his conduct as a candidate.

During three months of the Summer, the
November. heat was excessive, and the drought so great as to burn up all the grass fields ; of hay, scarcely any was made in this part of England. Much alarm was felt for the corn, and there was reason to fear a famine. Wheat, however, and potatoes have recovered ; the eddishes are good, and should we have a

mild Winter, we may not suffer much from the effects of the Summer.

Amongst the peculiarities of the season, were the precose ripening of all the Winter fruits, of which none will remain after Christmas. The enormous quantity of wasps, with the singular impossibility of finding many of their nests; and the extraordinary production of hedgehogs, which was so great, that in occasional walks round my green walk plantation, of eleven acres, after sunset, in three months, I caught fifty-two, and their numerous appearance, was every where observed.

In the last Summer, a pair of vultures, not
 1827. of the most common species, were
 observed near Bridgewater; they
 were very wild, but one of them, having fed voraciously, became heavy and was shot: it will be figured in a new supplement to Bewick's English Birds, and in the next number of Selby. Mr. Reid, near York, has two water tortoises, brought over from the Siege of Belleisle, which commenced in 1761. One of them having wandered, was missing for sixteen years, and was then found on cleaning out another pond; they are both alive, and very tame.

The Catholic question has been lost by a

small majority in the House of Commons. It is said, we were unfortunate, and that many were ill or accidentally absent on our side ; but such assertions are always suspicious, the real cause of our defeat, I believe to be, the zealous interference of Lushington, Secretary to the Treasury, in the elections. This experienced jobber spared no exertions to expel from the treasury boroughs, or any others where Government had influence, every man who would not declare himself against the measure. In the debate, Copley made a violent, and, as I thought, a weak speech against the Catholics, which entitled him to a most severe reply from Canning, under whose sarcasms he seemed to writhe ; he could not even decently suppress his feelings, but soon afterwards, in the lobby, in the presence of many strangers, he declared his astonishment at the treatment he had received. “Canning,” he said, “ought to have seen, that through the whole of his speech he had left a loop hole, which might make him still capable of being his Chancellor to carry the measure.” So much for consistency and political probity ! T. Abercrombie, who was present, to put an end to such a scene, asked him when he meant to bring forward his chancery bill. “Perhaps never,” said Copley, “let

them do their own work, I am independent of them, and will have no connection with such men ; ” yet this man was made Master of the Rolls by them a few months ago, and is now, it seems, to be made Chancellor by Canning.

Lord Liverpool, without talents or integrity, political at least, had by bigotry or hypocrisy, acquired a considerable reputation and influence in the country. The adoption of a more liberal system of Government proved that his power had not been very efficient for the last two years ; and the disputes in the Cabinet, which could no longer be concealed, promised an important change even before matters were brought to a crisis by the apoplectic attack of Lord Liverpool. The negotiations and intrigues which followed were long ; when Peel, declaring to the King that materials were wanting to form an anti-catholic Administration, his Majesty appointed Canning Prime Minister. It is evident that he has made to the King promises which are not in unison with the real interests of the country ; and which he relies on time and occasion to get rid of. For some time, his situation was not enviable ; almost all the former Ministers having resigned, and the portion of Opposition which afterwards united itself to him, having

long delayed to do so : the whole of us, however, are anxious to support him, less from personal reliance on his character, than from an earnest desire to exclude those who are opposed to him.

Brougham outstepped us far, and instantly threw himself into the arms of Canning : the latter, in the mean time, prosecuted his plans with a good deal of cunning, and, at length, succeeded in forming a strong Administration ; strong in the support of the whigs, and satisfactory from his entire dependence on that support. Many think that better terms might have been made for the country, had Brougham and those who acted with him, or on the same plan, been less eager ; on the other hand, keeping aloof at that moment from Canning might have driven him into a union with Peel, which would have put an end to all immediate hopes of more liberal principles, or even of the maintenance of the improvement in them which had already taken place. Amongst the many incidents reported connected with these changes, the following, I believe, are authentic. Leach was offered the seals of Ireland, as a man neutral on the Catholic question : he refused them on this condition, declaring himself a zealous friend to emancipa-

tion. Scarlett was recommended by Canning as Chancellor to the King, who rejected him, and insisted on Copley. On this, Canning expressed a doubt whether Copley would accept the seals from him ; the King then summoned Copley, who could not arrive before half-past twelve at night, being out of town : he saw the King, and went away Chancellor. Canning, in his difficulties, wrote to Wetheral, offering him the Rolls. Wetheral had at the same time been persuaded to send in his resignation as Solicitor General. On receiving Canning's letter, he hastened to recall his own ; it was too late, both places were disposed of ; he had offended his former friends, and is consigned to eternal exclusion and insignificance.

Sir W. Knighton, Receiver General of the Duchy of Lancaster, being supposed to have *some reasons* for fearing the consequences of having an active Chancellor of the Duchy on Lord Bexley's resignation, went to the King and obtained that high office for himself. Canning saw the disgrace such an appointment must bring upon him ; and immediately implored Lord Bexley to take back his office, in which he succeeded, probably without much difficulty ; under other circumstances, this feeble man would have been amongst the first

to be dismissed. The only dangers of the present Administration, seem to be from Canning's bad health, and from some return of the King's inclination to his old servants. From the latter, at present, we are secured by his indignation at their desertion ; and let us hope, that the country will soon find reasons for not being inclined to submit to such a retrograde step. The former, I fear, is a subject of concern and alarm. Burdett, on the first day of the House of Commons meeting after Easter, had great difficulty in determining where he should sit ; at last he took his seat behind Canning. For my own part I determined to take my seat on the left hand of the Speaker, with the Russells, Ponsonbys, old Cook, Lords Milton, Althorpe, Ebrington, and many more staunch whigs, ready to support Ministers when we can, but unwilling to pledge ourselves to them. Birch, Member for Nottingham, begged M. A. Taylor to keep for him the seat next his own, directly opposite to the treasury bench : he did so, but, on entering the House, Birch went to the opposite side. His son had that morning been appointed Lamb's private secretary for Ireland. Brougham has obtained his silk gown, which was refused to Denman, and his brother is devil to Scarlett, said to be a valuable appointment.

On the death of Canning, the first difficulty was to find a Chancellor of the Exchequer. The feeble Goodrich had named Herries to the King, but when he proposed him to the Cabinet, such a tory appointment created so great a fermentation, that he voted against his own motion : even Sturges Bourne was entreated to accept it, and when at last the King decided for Herries, Lord Lansdowne tendered his resignation. The King, however, begged him to retain the seals, because, he told him, if he resigned, Huskisson as well as Tierney, Carlisle, and others, would retire, and he should be driven to take back Peel and Co. which he was anxious to avoid. Lord Lansdowne yielded, but, notwithstanding all this, I much fear that on the first serious division, in this heterogenous Cabinet, Goodrich and Peel may unite, and renew the holy alliance Administration ; in the meantime the weakness of the present head has shewn the King, the greatness of his personal power, which he seems disposed to retain and to exert.

When Parliament meets, a severe struggle will take place, and if, as is reported, Lord Grey throw his great weight into opposition, Ministers will not find the House of Lords very easily to be managed ; but Lord Grey is

the only man of talent there against them ; and the folly and violence of Lord Londonderry may operate much in their favour.

Few men, I think, now hesitate to believe March, 1828. that the King, completely recovered from all patriotic follies, sent Herries amongst his Ministers on purpose to ruin them. With so feeble a head, this could not be a matter of difficulty ; and one is only surprised at their conducting their intrigues so clumsily. The new Administration is the Duke of Wellington, and Wellington alone. Peel disappoints his friends, and shews himself unequal to his situation, and Huskisson's character is gone ; but, hitherto, Wellington appears to be no longer the holy alliance tory ; like Canning, one may hope he has seen the necessity of acting on better principles : they are pledged to make the finance committee effective, which, with their support, cannot be otherwise. The violent jobbers, such as Bathurst, Herries, Eldon, Westmoreland, Melville, &c., are either out of office, or in places where they are in a great measure harmless ; and the King, who under Lord Goodrich was every thing, will now, we may hope, possess but little power.

The aspect of Foreign affairs is not favorable. In Portugal we have done no good ; and our

troops, most rightfully and indeed necessarily sent, are leaving the country in possession of a perjured villain. In Greece, it is pretty evident that none of our Ministers, unless Canning, meant to do anything. The treaty of July last, would have left half the Greeks in slavery; the rest in dependence. What was intended by sending the combined fleets into the Mediterranean? To bully and vapour; for when they interfered to save the remnant of the Greeks from Ibrahim's fury, our Admiral is all but disavowed. The Russians, however, and French have begun to act as they ought; and we shall be driven to do our duty, late as it will be performed. The Greeks will, I trust, be saved; what may follow, I know not: if anything unfortunate, it will be the consequence of our not adopting a steady and vigorous policy.

Those who rejoice in the overthrow of despotism and bigotry, may dwell with unabated pleasure on the late events in France; and that pleasure is to me the greater, as the state of things appeared hopeless. The elections there are in the hands of few, the influence of Government is immense, no public meetings excited popular enthusiasm, and the ballots by which the deputies were chosen, were so

regulated as to give every opportunity for the exertion of power, corruption, and trick. In this state of things, their Parliament was dissolved and nearly eighty Peers created. A servile Legislature was relied upon.

All at once, the strong and universal expression of public feeling obliged the powers to resort to a fair mode of balloting; nothing more was necessary, a free house of deputies has been returned. The Court, the Ministers, and the Jesuits, have been obliged to yield. I confess I am obliged to acknowledge my error, and to become a supporter of election by ballot.

It is perfectly true, that Lady Halford was on the point of being created a British Peeress; this was the wish of Sir W. Knighton, who probably thought, with the additional precedent of his predecessor Bloomfield having obtained an Irish Peerage, he might himself hereafter aspire to one or the other: it was stopped by Lord Liverpool.

John Foster, Lord Oriel has died, I think September, 1828. in his 90th year, as he sat in the last Irish Parliament of George II. He had afterwards the singular fortune to be created a Peer by George IV. He was a man of strong mental powers, great resolution, and great political profligacy; yet he was not with-

out sincere attachment to his country. After many changes in his parliamentary career, he became the deadliest opposer of the Union : he was very angry at Pitt sending for him to endeavour to change his opinion, and said it was impossible for the Speaker of the House of Commons to consent to its annihilation. His friend Sir R. Heron told me, that now the Union was decided he would not continue a factious opposition. I perfectly understood this, and accordingly his silence in the last Session was followed by a grant for life of the emoluments of the Speakership, which I think amounted to between £6000. or £7000. per annum. Such was his immediate distress and want of judgment in his own affairs, that he sold this annuity for less than £20,000. All the ultra-protestant party considered Mr. Pitt as pledged by the Union to give complete emancipation to the Catholics ; and Lord Farnham says, that a meeting was at that time held at Foster's house, consisting of about eight persons, at which he and Saurin were present, at which it was unanimously resolved to oppose the Union by force ; but that Foster procured the delay of a fortnight, which put an end to the scheme. It is difficult to give credit to this story, and the relater has always appeared to me half mad.

Foster's son having married the heiress of the Mahareens, has restored the fortunes of the family ; the father continued to the last his violent prejudices against the Catholics, but the son will now support their cause. Not so Lord Downes, who whilst Sir H. Burgh and Member for Carlow constantly voted for them, and has since as constantly voted against them. In foreign policy, the Duke of Wellington has made a wretched figure ; he has done nothing effective to relieve our finances, but he has shown some disposition to settle the Catholic question, which indeed he must be mad to oppose any longer.

No one knows the Duke of Wellington's
December 1, intentions with regard to the Catholic
1828. question ; yet the alarm amongst the intolerants gives hope, and there are other circumstances which encourage it, yet Wellington is in no respect committed. Does he meet with difficulties in the closet ? He is the man to conquer them. It is clear that no opposition to their just claims can long be successful ; the opinion of the country is rapidly becoming favorable to them ; the experiment of a county meeting in Kent, though the decision was favorable to their fanaticism, has not encouraged a repetition. In this county, the zeal of

the Lord Lieutenant has been checked by the consideration, that success was by no means sure ; and after a deliberate consultation, the idea is abandoned. A few months must decide whether another year is to pass in dangerous delay.

In the mean time, the King is in a very precarious state of health. His heir is supposed to be favourable to the Catholics, though he has constantly voted against them. I should be sorry if this were their best dependence ; for we have had too much experience how little reliance ought to be placed even on the promises of the successor to the crown ; but the Duke of Clarence's life is hardly more secure than that of his brother. Then comes an infancy ; and what if we have a Cumberland for Regent !!! Heaven forbid.

It is now evident that the Catholic question
 July, could not have been carried during
 1829. this reign, at any rate not in the late Session of Parliament, without the fortunate union of all the favorable circumstances that occurred. The Duke of Wellington's mysterious silence was continued till the very day the Session commenced ; and the orange faction was completely surprised. Peel I always thought really favorable to the question, and

that his opposition arose merely from the selfish views and narrow calculations of a feeble mind ; but the opponents relied upon him, and his happily timed desertion contributed much to weaken their defence. Then, excepting Lord Eldon, they were utterly devoid of talents, and brought the cause into more contempt in every debate. The King, at first, yielded reluctantly ; and afterwards frequently relapsed into his former state of fear and hostility. The people appeared in general to have no strong feeling on the question, they seemed willing to leave it to the Legislature, but when assembled they almost always decided against the Catholics ; yet, as they became more enlightened by repeated discussion, it proved more impossible every day to excite them to any violent agitation. In the midst of this state of the public mind, arrived the Duke of Cumberland. This most worthless human being is rendered capable of mischief by the only good quality he possesses,—a daring courage ; he had discernment enough to see the opportunity given him of atoning for his crimes in the eyes of a powerful party, by placing himself at their head. What is the cause of his influence with the King, is it affection or fear ? Be it what it will, that influence is great ; he was and is in

constant communication with him. The Ministers were frequently in disgrace ; once or twice they tendered their resignations, and would certainly have been discarded had it been found possible to have formed an intolerant Administration ; even as it was, they were obliged to compromise with the King, and with those of the tories who joined them ; but the points abandoned by them are of a nature to produce little if any permanent mischief. It was irksome, indeed, to be obliged to consent to exclude one individual, by wording the acts in such a manner as to vitiate O Connel's election ; and it was ungracious to consent to the immediate disqualification of the forty shillings freeholders. But O Connel will be re-elected, and the forty shillings freeholders being, in fact, almost all of them voters fraudulently created, and never to be emancipated from the slavery in which their landlords hold them, except by a question of strong religious feeling, the measure no doubt will be ultimately beneficial to Ireland. After all, it was probably to the just fears of Ministers that we owe this great and salutary measure. The Catholic Association was become too powerful to be resisted : had justice been much longer refused, it would have wielded the whole

power of Ireland ; and the Government is said to have discovered, that had they attempted to control Ireland by force, the army was not to be trusted.

In the House of Lords but little talent was exhibited. Lord Eldon showed less ability and less energy than might have been expected ; the rest, except the Duke of Richmond, were noisy and feeble. On the other side, the Duke of Wellington was manly and decisive, the Chancellor able and unprincipled, Plunket irresistible in argument.

In the House of Commons, the opposition to this measure was miserably weak in debate. On the other side were many powerful speeches, but that which most excited my admiration was from Lord Palmerston ; not only on account of the many new points it contained, and the very masterly and eloquent manner in which he treated the subject ; but because nothing in his whole life had led us to suppose him capable of so distinguished an exertion.

During all this Session, Parliament was almost exclusively occupied, as it might well be, with this great and difficult measure ; and so much was the mind of every man excited by hopes and fears, so much were all associations formed, all politics calculated on this

subject, all other party feelings, as it were, suspended by it, that it seemed impossible for the Legislature to return immediately into a state sufficiently calm, to enable it to enter upon any other business of importance. In the next Session they will have enough to do.

And now let us consider what are the vast advantages to be obtained from this measure of justice. A virtual union with Ireland,—her friendship instead of her enmity in the hour of need,—a great saving in the army hitherto employed to control her,—a vast improvement in the condition of Ireland by the great capitals which the cheapness of labour will invite into that country, and which will no longer be withheld from fear of the discontented state of its population.

Ireland, says the virulent faction which opposed emancipation, is still dissatisfied and disturbed; and why? Because the leaders of the Cumberland party have roused their hot-headed friends in Ireland, from their first submission, by persuading them, that the question is not finally settled; and they have, in consequence, done every thing in their power to goad the Catholics into hostile resistance; but this forced state of discontent must soon subside for want of fuel.

In the Winter, my emus had laid some eggs : we then confined them to their house, with a small temporary yard. The cock soon formed a nest, and arranging the eleven eggs which were left him, began sitting so perseveringly, that he was never seen off the nest, and was obliged to be fed upon it by hand. He never suffered the female to interfere in the day-time, yet, in the first week, the eggs were increased to fifteen ; in sixty-seven days five were successfully hatched towards the end of March, and are now all grown and healthy.

I believe the *primula elatior* to be a variety produced between the *p. vulgaris* and the *p. veris*. A good many years ago, I planted a *p. elatior* in the green walk plantation, near some cowslips and primroses ; there are now on that spot two varieties of the *primula elatior*, one with the ordinary flowers like the primrose in colour, the other with the flowers exactly like those of the cowslip, but much larger. There is also a plant which sends up many single flowers like the primrose, and several umbells of flowers like the *primula elatior*. I saw at Mr. Waterton's, in Yorkshire, a small mock ruin, in which some common pigeons and some owls (*strix flammea*) lived intermixed, in contiguous cells, and without any

hostility. In imitation of this, I brought up two young owls of this species on mice, in a dovecote, in which were some black jacobin pigeons ; but when the owls were old enough to come out in search of mice, their parents found them out and carried them away. The next year, the experiment was tried again ; but this time, in the scarcity of mice, the owls were fed on small birds, and the consequence was, they also eat the young and one old pigeon.

The King of France suddenly this Summer
 October. dismissed his Ministers, and appointed the Prince de Polignac his chief Minister. The Duke of Wellington had certainly a great share in this intrigue, and expected that all moderate men would rally round the Prince ; who, though of the absolute party, is yet thought a moderate man, and is personally popular ; but all those attached to the constitution, all the moderates, and even Villelle and his friends, have peremptorily refused to connect themselves with the new Minister, and he has been thrown upon the ultras. The Duke of Wellington is, I have reason to know, very much alarmed at the results of his own work. The prospect is alarming ; if the present Administration can stand, liberty is over-

thrown, and a struggle must ensue ; if it fail, the French seem inclined to resent the interference of our Court, and their Ministers may probably be induced to yield to the wish of the people and the army. War with England.

The inhabitants of this county, who possess
 January, as little political principle as those of
 1830. any other part of the empire, finding themselves very greatly distressed began to desire a county meeting. The subject chosen was malt and beer ; certainly a very good one. A most numerous and respectable requisition was presented to Richard Thorold, of Grimsby, the Sheriff, who, for reasons best known to himself, refused to call the meeting ; he had the folly too to give reasons, and bad ones. After some foolish difference about nothing, a meeting was called by myself and three other Magistrates. On a terribly cold day, Jan. 8, we met to the number of rather more than 2000, censured the Sheriff, and petitioned Parliament to repeal all the taxes on malt and beer : the oratory was not very good, but we were nearly unanimous.

The little opposition there was, went on the ground that we ought to have gone into the whole subject of the national distress ; and certainly nothing could have more completely

defeated our object than such a proposition, had it succeeded, but it was ill handled and easily ridiculed as it deserved. I was a good deal ashamed of my coadjutors of the Newcastle and Sadler faction, with their tirades against free trade, toleration, &c. ; still we may do good. We were wrong in not petitioning for the repeal of the malt duty only, we should have been followed by other counties, and probably succeeded. The repeal of the beer duty is important only as destroying the monopoly of brewers ; but that of the malt duties would have afforded a substantial relief to agriculture ; the majority of the meeting at Lincoln, however, would not have acquiesced in this.

This has been a most extraordinary Session,
Stubton,
June.
there being no man who has authority to keep the House of Commons in any order. There are men who waste its time day after day till eight, nine, or even ten o'clock, in foolish speeches on petitions, often without any general importance ; a long debate then ensues on some subject before the House. Bills of great consequence are read at three in the morning ; and many that ought to have been passed or rejected without delay, are indefinitely postponed. Ministers have no secure majority, for whenever the old Opposition and

the ultras can agree on any subject, they must be left in a minority. The Duke of Wellington has certainly done more for the country than any former Minister, but it is not enough to meet the necessities of the times ; the country begins to be tired of his despotism, and would be much sooner tired if he were to leave anything to his colleagues, of whom Peel alone possesses any public character or confidence. The gratitude the old Opposition has felt for the carrying the Catholic bill, has more than once saved the Administration ; but this is fast wearing out, and their only safeguard now is the fear of their successors.

The estimates contained two most shameful pensions, to sons of Lord Bathurst and Lord Melville ; and it fell to my lot to move for their suppression. Many delays took place, which served to fix the public attention on the subject ; and at last it came on, at the moment I could have wished. The defence was miserably feeble, in fact it admitted of none ; and the question was carried by a majority of eighteen. This being the first time the Duke of Wellington had been left in a minority, and the subject of some importance in principle, I was congratulated on my success from every quarter of the kingdom ; and, though certainly

far from being displeased, I could hardly help feeling a little ashamed of the exaggerated sentiment so universal on this occasion, and of my ephemeral popularity, of which I have before experienced the transitory duration. Ministers had shewn much anxiety, or at least some of them, on this division. Lord Melville, whilst it was in agitation, asked Captain G. Dundas if he wished to be afloat; (he had not spoken to him, professionally, for ten or twelve years); the answer was characteristic, "Not unless there is something to be done." Two hours before the debate, T. Dundas brought me a conversation which Croker had held in his presence, (no doubt for my use) that the places held were for life, and therefore they could not have been abolished without giving pensions to the holders; this would have left me nothing to say, but Croker must have known it to be false, and so, fortunately, did I.

I refused to have anything to do with the meetings to condole on the death of a King, whom there is not the slightest reason to lament, whose selfish extravagance was never for a moment checked by the distresses of the people; and whose character might be summed up in three words,—faithless, worthless, heartless. I believe his successor to be a foolish,

well meaning man ; and very far from extravagant. It is unfortunate that he has thrown himself entirely into the hands of the Duke of Wellington ; but this may be remedied, if, as I believe, the elections have been unfavourable to the Minister. Two years ago, I thought reform of Parliament almost hopeless ; I now believe it to be certain and approaching, the longer delayed, the more it will be radical.

It was in the last Autumn I lost my excellent friend Christopher Nevile, at the
Stubton,
September. age of 83 or 4. He was a most accomplished gentleman, with a good deal of erudition ; just and generous, but timid and inactive. He was devotedly fond of his first wife, a sister of the last Earl of Gainsborough ; the last was, in every respect, opposite to him ; ignorant, waspish, and of the vulgarist mind, with no small impregnation of bigotry, of which he had none : he yielded something for the sake of peace, but to her great dislike of his eldest son and of me he never gave way in the slightest degree. Peculiarities in his family, and the worthless profligacy of his son in law, had given me the opportunity of being of considerable service to them. He had the character of being stingy, most undeservedly. He once accidentally heard from his son that

I was under some pecuniary embarrasment from the alarm of country Bankers, who had called in all their advances : he instantly wrote to inform me, he had in his banker's hands £3200, which was at my disposal. I did dispose of it, *for a short time*, and it was exceedingly useful to me ; had I wanted as much more, I am sure I might have had it, with the necessary delay.

The general election has certainly been unfavourable to the Minister. Either he must be beaten, or he must yield to the wishes of the people, which will probably not save him. Will Huskisson's friends join him ? Not if they think him falling ; and their junction would scarcely be sufficient.

Huskisson was certainly a man of very great talents, but I do not like the extravagant praise bestowed upon him since his death. If men of such profligate public conduct are to be held up as laudable examples, political crimes, and, particularly, unprincipled inconsistency, will lose the disgrace which should always accompany them.

France. When a King with his Ministers
 January, 1831. conspires against his people ; his object despotism, his means massacre ; can it be conceived that any considerable party

in England regrets his not having succeeded : yet, this regret the Duke of Wellington avows, and shares it with a large faction ; this alone ought to prevent him from ever again possessing political power. We have now an Administration pledged to parliamentary reform, to retrenchment, and non-interference. The chief amongst them are honest and able, and will redeem their pledges ; but their task is difficult. Reform and retrenchment will lessen ministerial influence, and they can only retain their power as long as they possess the confidence of the people ; yet, there is a party increasing in strength—the extreme radicals—who rather than abandon any of their own theories, will be willing to oppose all the good they might procure for the country, even at the risk of bringing back to power those who have always opposed every thing liberal, and upheld every abuse. These, when on particular questions they unite with the last Administration, either in or without the House of Commons, may place Ministers in great danger. The great trial will be reform of Parliament, on which the radicals cannot be satisfied. Should the Administration be beaten upon it, which appears to me far from impossible from the unnatural union which may take place on that

question against them, Parliament must be dissolved, and all will then depend on the feeling and temper of the people.

The Duke de Polignac appears to be a very weak man, and, probably, not perfectly sane in mind. In a letter to the Duke de Rohan, Archbishop of Besancon, he says, he believes he has a divine mission, to restore order in France. In attempting to escape, he assumed the livery of a lady, but was discovered by retaining his rings ; and dining at table with his mistress. There is little doubt of his being son of the King, who always had the reputation of being connected with his mother. ✓

It appears that our Ministers have agreed with the other great powers in refusing to permit Luxemburgh to form a part of the Belgium state ; yet, these powers are as much pledged to retaining Belgium for the Dutch King as Luxemburgh. It would have been better to have left each to its own free choice. Has not Poland endeavoured too soon to recover her freedom ? Heaven grant her success, but I have little hope of it.

In England, the late Ministers, by their inactivity, had incurred the risk of converting our disorders into a civil war. These disorders began amongst the labourers, in counties

where they had been treated with great injustice by their employers, supported by the folly of the Magistrates. They are now suppressed by a proper mixture of severity and lenity ; and as a very general good feeling prevails upon the subject amongst the higher orders, I hope it will, in the end, produce a better system. The fires are crimes of a frightful nature, and little, I am persuaded, connected with the riots of the labourers. Some of the principal perpetrators must at length be discovered, and then, it is to be hoped, we shall recover our former security.

What a wonderful man is this Brougham. His astonishing powers of mind,—his immense information on almost all subjects,—the rapidity with which he acquires it, and the fidelity with which his memory retains it, are really stupendous. Then, his want of judgment, which I believe arises from want of sincerity ; and the strange tricks by which he seeks to obtain his ends, in which he always succeeds. At the very close of the last Session of the last Parliament, when he knew it to be useless with a view to the public, he brought forward a motion against slavery. He then published his speech in a pamphlet, which he circulated amongst all the friends of Wilber-

force, in Yorkshire ; and they accordingly chose him for their Member. Brougham, who is supposed to be a free-thinker in religion, has always had the desire to succeed Wilberforce as head of the Evangelions. It is curious, too, that one of the earliest public acts of his life, was to go with the present Lord Barham on some embassy from the saints of this country, to those of Germany. When Lord Grey was forming his Administration, some offer was made to Brougham, to which he returned no answer, but renewed his notices on the slave trade and reform in the House of Commons ; declaring that the change in Ministers could not affect him. He well knew they dare not leave him in that House to make these motions in hostility to them ; and he became Chancellor of England. I firmly believe it is the best thing which could happen ; he cannot have any other object left, than to signalize himself as a great Chancellor, and who will doubt his ability to be so ?

Creedy was at Brussels during the battle of
August, 1831. Waterloo. The suspense all that day was intolerable, the rumours were all unfavourable, and the non appearance of our army in retreat on Brussels, offered the only faint subject of hope. Early the next morning,

Creevy went to see the Duke of Wellington, who had returned in the night. The Duke rejected all congratulation, and said, "It was a dreadful business; 30,000 men destroyed. It was a damned near thing; Blucher and I thought we could do it, but it was a damned near thing." Here was no vanity, no boasting. Keep to your profession, Duke, and meddle not with politics, which you do not understand.

Contrary to expectations, the radicals were satisfied; a very few, indeed, whose opposition is more honorable than their support, have recovered from their honesty and joined the tories. The people are every where true to themselves, and have returned an immense majority to the new Parliament. The Lords, however, bigoted against reform, and those who hope to overturn the Ministry, form a vast majority in that House. When they had rejected the bill, they fully expected Lord Grey's resignation; and were prepared again to dissolve the Parliament. Lords Harrowby and Wharncliffe called a meeting of their *noble* friends, to agree upon certain resolutions on a reform to be submitted to the Lords, but could not find a single supporter; they then called upon the Duke of Wellington, and others, to produce their resolutions, but none were offered.

Lord Wharncliffe was furious, and I was in hopes he would immediately have seceded. Will he do so? I see no signs of it. It is most desirable that the measure should be carried without resorting to the dangerous measure of a great creation of Peers; but, at present, I do not see the prospect of any sufficient change in the temper of the upper House.

After much consideration, I ventured, with
December,
1831. little encouragement, upon a county meeting. It is always difficult to obtain a good one, and most so in Winter. Once resolved, I was manfully supported; the requisition was signed by nearly 400 good names, and the meeting attended by about 1600, containing half the gentry of the county. The principal object was, an address to the King, and a resolution of confidence in Ministers. The last was opposed by General Johnson, now a Huntite; but not more than a dozen hands were held up against it. He carried, indeed, his resolutions against me, (in addition to mine) one of them very violent. As the Bishops were attacked in it, the people were sure to adopt it; but as it did not affect the main objects, I considered the meeting as attended with complete success. Ingleby would have supported Johnson, if he had had

courage. I now wait anxiously the result of the new Session of Parliament, which meets to-morrow. By what means reform will be carried I know not ; but this I know, that carried it *must be*.

It was hoped that a sufficient number of the
 London, Peers and Bishops who had opposed
 May. the reform bill, would have become convinced of the danger of persevering in attempting to defeat the anxious and just object of a nation's wishes. Should this fail us, there is still the creation of Peers ; which, much to be deprecated, was far preferable to the revolution which must have followed had the people been driven to despair. The Opposition, however, remained determined : not to defeat reform, but to turn out their opponents. A sufficient number of them assisted in carrying the second reading, by a small majority ; but when it went into committee, these men, excepting about four, insidiously turned back and formed a large majority against Ministers on the first question. Perhaps so shameful a prostitution of character never was exhibited. The Duke of Wellington suddenly became a reformer, and was ready to form an Administration on the basis of an effective reform ; and Lord Harrowby, a second time, turned round

and voted with him. Lord Grey acted with the vigour that became him. He recommended to the King a creation of Peers, and on his refusal, resigned with all his colleagues; yet the King had formerly given his consent to this measure, if necessary; but it is now endeavoured to be explained, that it was only if necessary to carry the second reading. A miserable evasion. Does the King resemble his father and brother in their hatred to all liberal men and principles, or has his weakness yielded to the constant intrigues and importunities of those who surround him? Sure it is, that the Duke of Wellington and his friends had good information of his intentions, but he had not concerted measures with his former colleagues. Peel refused to form a part of an Administration which he saw could not be maintained. The Duke had not a single man in the House of Commons to maintain his cause, for A. Baring was annihilated in one night. After a few days expended in useless efforts, the Duke was obliged to acknowledge his impotence to form a Ministry. The King then wrote to Lord Grey, but the communication was not satisfactory. The King was obstinate, Lord Grey firm; and the nation was kept in awful excitement. Every hour

brought accounts from every part, of the determination of the people : no breaking of windows, no trifling expressions of discontent ; all seemed reserved for a tremendous explosion. I was in the House of Commons on the Friday, when at five Lord Althorpe entered, and in answer to our anxious enquiries declared he had nothing good to announce. We knew the King had passed the previous evening with the Dukes of Cumberland and Gloucester and Lord Munster only. He could not have been in worse company. All seemed desperate, when a messenger came from Lord Grey. Lord Stanley went out, and in a few minutes returned, when Lord Althorpe rose and informed the House that all was settled, and the Ministers retained their situations. Universal joy spread through the Capital, and thence to every part of the country. It crossed the ocean, and diffused content and hope throughout France, for our cause was theirs. Had Wellington and Aberdeen succeeded to power, there was too much reason to fear they would have done all they dared, to promote the views of the Holy Alliance.

Still, without a creation of Peers, it is now sufficiently evident that when the question of reform is at an end, Lord Grey may any day,

be outnumbered in the House of Commons ; and it may then be less impossible for the Duke of Wellington or Peel to form an Administration. The Duke, therefore, to prevent this creation, has consented to withdraw with his friends from the House, and suffer the bill to pass. Lord Harewood and others have seceded, because they would not support the Duke when they found his opposition was merely factious, and that he was ready to carry a bill on the same principles. There still remains a body of uncompromising opponents, but too weak to make any successful resistance.

It is now the opinion of those best informed, that the Queen has been unjustly accused, and that, in fact, she has never interfered in politics. The King is either himself hostile to his present Ministers and their measures, or is liable to be influenced against them by those who surround him, amongst whom we appear to have no friends. From the faction which has so long misruled the country to its own profit, we must expect every thing which rage, vexation, and disappointment, can suggest. But I think we may rely on the resolution of an enlightened people, and in the support of a reformed House of Commons, virtually representing them.

The dismissal of Lord Howe, whom she
 July, 1832. has never replaced, was unfortunate
 though necessary ; for it made an open enemy of the Queen. The King appears to have yielded to the unceasing attempts of those around him to bias his mind. He is now hostile to Ministers, and resents their having persuaded him to be a reformer ; he was, however, too far committed to defeat reform, and reform will so far strengthen Ministers, that they are safe till they commit some great blunder, or stumble on some great difficulty. The new House of Commons cannot be inimical. In the Lords we may hope for a few new Peers, and some favourable changes ; and even without either, the danger cannot be immediate, though they may do much mischief by opposing important measures.

This year I have received a pair of kangaroos from New Holland, of a species rarely seen here,—small and very dark. My black swans, old as they are, this year produced two broods for the first time, and reared four of each ; the first hatched on Christmas-day last, but the other about the middle of May. The Zoological Society have given me a male brown Angola rabbit, (about two years ago, I destroyed all my male white ones,) and the progeny has

consisted of white, black, brown, and light-drab, or flesh-colour : all colours in the same brood, but never two colours in one rabbit, which seems to be the peculiarity of this variety.

The creation of Peers at the Coronation was effected too hastily, it might have been more numerous and better chosen. The Duke of Sussex recommended two, Lord Dunmore and Hughes ; and asked for a third, Col. Tynte, which was refused. Lord Anglesea obtained a Peerage for his son in law, A. Chichester ; and recommended Lord Cloncurry, which was particularly offensive to the Irish Orangists. Coke would accept nothing less than an Earldom. Byng wanted a remainder to his nephew ; the honor was offered to C. Dundas, who declined it, because he could not ensure a friend to Government to succeed him in Berkshire. He afterwards weakly accepted it, and an enemy was chosen. It was offered to Burdett, who had no other objection to it than that he thought he might be more useful to them in the lower House ; the reason was highly honourable, yet I thought a Peerage would not have been a becoming conclusion to his political life ; but this he did not feel.

Supposing none of the Peers who opposed

Ministers on reform should now join them, the majority against them would be increased about sixteen since last year, by six coming of age; all tories' deaths, all which create a change, making it against us; and the sending out of friends and bringing home enemies from Embassies and Governments.

There will now probably be a small creation on the approaching dissolution, but which cannot much affect the disparity. At the time when a numerous creation was in contemplation; the applications were innumerable, and many of them so absurd, that, without good authority, I could not have believed them.

Three weeks ago, an infant kangaroo was found in the morning abandoned and nearly dead. The mother was caught, and the young one put into her pouch; there it has completely recovered, but the tail is broken, whether in catching, I know not.—Died soon afterwards. My little kangaroos (*k. enfumé* of Cuvier) have produced a young female. They are remarkably gentle, tame, and fearless.

The elections of the Commoners have pro-
 1833. ceeded admirably; the people have shewn as little inclination to choose radicals as conservatives. Hunt is thrown out, but he was more odious and troublesome to

the Members, than mischievous to the country : so small was the estimation in which he was held. By way of exchange, Cobbet is chosen ; my expectation is, that he will fall flat, but it may turn out otherwise ; and should he have Hunt's impudence, he may still be more annoying.

This morning, I found a large white gold
 April 20. fish in great distress. A male toad
 had fastened himself upon the head
 and shoulders of the fish, but neither of the
 paws touched the eye ; on destroying the toad,
 the fish swam away apparently unhurt. About
 one hundred toads have been killed in this
 pond in the last month.

I have never been able to persuade the Zoological Society to exclude strangers from the farm at Kingston ; the consequence is, it is useless as a breeding place ; and as economy is become necessary, from the falling off of our finances, our garden receipt having diminished £2400. last year, we have determined to give up the farm. The Society have, therefore, entrusted to my care, a very fine pair of the crax alector, in hopes I may obtain a brood from them.

Guinea pigs have always been understood to be very difficult to preserve during the Winter.

Perhaps they do not like confinement. In the Autumn, I turned six loose into the menagerie, and in the middle of the Winter, finding them do well, I turned the rest, about a dozen, to them : they have all been well and lively.

The storm of August 30, destroyed four out of nine of the guinea pigs. My ^{September 8.} new kangaroos (kangaroo enfumè of Cuvier) have produced one, and promise another young one ; they appear perfectly healthy, are very tame, inoffensive, and fearless. My emus, this Winter, produced eleven and reared ten young ones in one brood. The common kangaroo is become scarce and dear from being, in general, very unhealthy in England. My flock is reduced to one male, two females, of which one is much emaciated, one young one, and the promise of two more. The crax alector laid four eggs, three were bad, and it was so long before we could find a turkey to sit upon them, that the fourth was spoiled. The Zoological Society gave me last year a pair of the *cereopsis novæ hollandiæ*, bred in England ; and Lord Milton, this year, procured for me, from the Isle of Wight, a pair of young cormorants.

Rabbits are in the habit of covering up, with earth, the holes in which they have deposited

their young ; and of leaving them in that state for a week or ten days. One of my Angola rabbits lately covered a hole which her young had left ; I dug it open, but it was empty.

The first reformed Parliament is, I think, a very honest, but a very ignorant and a most disagreeable one. The Members are almost all seized with the rage for speaking, and persevere in making all sorts of motions,—many very absurd—to the interruption of the most important measures, which are at last proceeded with, often almost imperceptibly at late hours, Cobbet wants not assurance, but his total disregard of truth and decency, makes him a cypher in influence ; but though his speeches are short, they are so incessant that he is a great and disgraceful nuisance. At first, the leaders of the conservatives seemed to have some understanding with him ; but they found him too contemptible. O Connel seems still to lean to him. Peel is gradually become almost friendly to Ministers ; and, probably, the time is not distant when he will join them. As, however, he will not like to be second in the House of Commons, it may be deferred till the death of Lord Spencer has removed Lord Althorpe, who, with all his honesty, has not sufficient talents or vigour for his situation.

G. Lamb, the under secretary, told me they had refused permission to two persons who wished to change their names; one was C. Tenyson, who desired the name of D'Eyncourt, or something like it; the other, the Duke of Beaufort, who aims at being a Plantagenet. Such a refusal is rather new, but their rule is not to grant it without a sufficient reason.

The new system of elections has not yet produced any man of distinguished talents. The Opposition, headed by the Dukes of Cumberland and Wellington, seconded by old Eldon and Lyndhurst, have, during the whole Session, had the means in their hands of defeating the present Administration, by their great majority in the House of Lords; that they have not availed themselves of it, is to be ascribed to the impossibility under which they labored of forming an Administration that could be permanent. Once, indeed, when the Irish Church bill was sent up to their House, they appeared resolved on this perilous step; but the refusal of Peel to concur with them, left them without support in the lower House. I was going to the Assizes at Lincoln when I received earnest solicitations to go immediately to town, to be ready for the crisis; but somehow or another I thought it would not take

place. When I reached Lincoln, Hill, the Barrister, who had that moment arrived from London, informed me that Ministers were resolved to resign whether they were beaten in the Lords or not; and that the Chancellor had assured him it would take place at latest on the Saturday. It was, I believe, the Chancellor's wish to do so, that they might return, with ampler powers; but he failed to persuade his colleagues of the prudence of such a measure. They preferred yielding something to conciliate the least violent of their opponents; and I think they acted wisely. It is by such conduct that they have effected much good for the country, and may still accomplish more. They had, indeed, before given up the clause which declared the Church property available for national purposes; and on that occasion I voted against them.

Immediately after that vote I left town. My wife was in a helpless state from the fracture of her right arm. I was still occasionally suffering from the effects of having been run over by a carriage three years before; and I saw that the vast majority of Ministers, increasing towards the close of the Session, made an individual vote of little consequence in the House of Commons.

Some one, I forget who, being asked by Crockford for a motto, gave him, "He filleth the hungry with good things, and the rich he sendeth empty away."

The late Sir W. Manners (Lord Huntingtower) sold three seats in Parliament to the Prince of Wales, then pretending to be a whig : the three returned for Ilchester and Grantham, were Sheridan, John W. Ward, and Robert Smith, for this, Sir Wm. had the written promise of a Peerage. When the Prince became Regent, the promise was claimed; the Regent informed Sir Wm., that his Ministers would not consent to the Peerage, but that any sum of money, he would name should be paid him. Lord Huntingtower said, "He could not put a pecuniary value upon the honor of a King."

It seems now pretty clear, that the King, surrounded as he always has been by tories, has yielded so far to their influence, that he would dismiss the present Administration if he could form one on opposite principles; our security is, that it is impossible. Our Ministers do not entirely agree on public principle, promise something more than they can perform, are embarrassed by the House of Lords, and dissatisfy the country; yet, on the whole, they are popular from a just opinion of their honesty and good intentions.

I fear that the English Clergy bill will fall far short of expectation. My constituents have been inclined to be dissatisfied with some of my votes, particularly that on Hervey's motion respecting pensions. I have adopted the plan of writing candidly to them in explanation ; and they have treated my letters with great indulgence. In fact, that motion was merely *ad captandum* ; both Hervey and Hume acknowledged that nothing could be done ; and, perhaps, the best way of treating the subject would have been, to have given them their committee.

When Lord Durham resigned his place, about this time last year, Stephenson, his auditor and manager of his affairs, said, in a large company at dinner, "That Lord Durham would return to the Cabinet before the end of June, in a place of greater importance, though of inferior precedence." This could not be said without design. It has not been realized. Lord Durham has since quarrelled with Lord Grey, and that not only politically. He has, in his speeches in the North, gone very far to please the radicals ; he has shewn inordinate ambition. Fortunately, he is on bad terms with Lord Brougham : if united with him, the consequences might be very disastrous.

It was a great omission in the reform bill, that provision was not made, that
 August, 1834. Members of the House of Commons should not vacate their seats by taking office. Such a check upon appointments was no longer necessary; and, indeed, when it might have been of some utility, it was constantly evaded, as the principal Ministers scarcely ever sat for populous places or counties. Since the passing of the reform bill, it cannot be evaded; and operates greatly to the prejudice of the public in restricting the choice of persons to fill important offices, and often preventing those most fit from accepting, from the fear of an expensive and uncertain re-election. To remedy this evil, I moved for leave to bring in a bill. I was attacked by Dr. Lushington, in a violent speech, for his constituents. Althorpe was frightened. Not so Stanley,* who would have probably given a very favourable turn to the debate. In the mean time, however, the sense of a very thin House being against us, I complied with the wish of the other Ministers, and withdrew the motion. I proposed bringing it forward again next Session, with a clause for shortening Parliaments to five years. I think the latter

* He did not enter the House till the motion was withdrawn.

will be popular, will do little harm, and is rather agreeable to justice. I had also intended to bring forward a measure for preventing the Bishops sitting in the House of Lords ; but in this I was anticipated. It was not brought forward quite in the tone of moderation which I should have adopted.

The principal business of the Session was the poor law amendment bill, from which I expect results of the greatest benefit to the country. During this Session, the Cabinet Ministers seem to have had serious differences amongst each other ; at length, becoming public, we lost the services of Sir J. Graham and Lord Ripon, who could both be spared ; of the Duke of Richmond, who, I trust, will still support his late colleagues ; and of Stanley, whose very superior talents cannot but be greatly regretted, and unhappily he has already shewn a disposition to join the hostile ranks. The loss of Lord Grey can hardly be attributed to a schism, as, in fact, it principally arose from his increasing desire of retirement and quiet ; and just as is the concern felt by the public, for the loss of a man surpassed by none in ability, integrity, and honor ; the admirable choice of Lord Melbourne to succeed him, will operate as far as possible to mitigate the loss.

His temper and discretion are particularly calculated to cement together the different, and not always accordant, parts of the Administration. In the mean time, the turn which affairs have taken in Spain and Portugal, has been equally fortunate for the British Ministers, and for the support and improvement of the liberties of Europe.

Anxious as I always was for reform of Parliament, and convinced as I am of its utility and necessity, it must be owned that if it has improved the honesty of the House of Commons, it certainly has made it a very disagreeable one to sit in. The time which ought to be occupied by public business of the highest importance, is eternally wasted in the most futile and idle manner. Numbers of the Members push forward their own crude and useless motions, in which days after days are wasted, besides the endless hours that are consumed in desultory conversations upon petitions ; and Ministers have no other resource, than to pass the necessary measures between one and three in the morning. In the Lords, an immense majority continues ready to turn out Ministers whenever the tories dare attempt to succeed them. Long may this remain a theory. Would it be believed, that Brougham

proposed the Privy Seal to Lord Grey after his resignation ? Yet it is true.

On the second of this month, Mrs. Arbuthnot, who had been thought recovered from a short illness, suddenly expired, and left her family in the deepest affliction. She was the delight and pride of them all, and the kindness of her heart rendered her often essentially useful to them, as well as to all her friends. Dying at 40, she had not survived her beauty : highly accomplished, admirably well informed, particularly in all that could be learned from the best company, utterly without affectation, her manners were fascinating and her conversation most agreeable. She was highly esteemed by the first Statesmen of the tory party, and as she was naturally pleased with their attentions and society, and encouraged by her husband, with whom she always lived in the most affectionate union in conscious innocence, she rather imprudently despised the malice of public opinion. This was increased by her having a considerable pension. On this subject there was a great misconception in the public mind. I had undertaken to explain it in the House of Commons, but when Harvey brought forward his motion on pensions, her's was not named ; and as she had particularly

desired she might not be unnecessarily brought before the public, I reluctantly remained silent; reluctantly, because I thought an explanation might have done much good.

The sudden dismissal of Lord Melbourne's Administration seems to me likely to
Stubton,
Feb. 1835. have been a fortunate circumstance.

It was, probably, a mistake of the King's, suggested by those immediately about him; by no means wished by Peel; and, perhaps, as little by the Duke of Wellington. Had they waited another Session, the late Administration must have become much divided, and, probably, very unpopular. Their dismissal has rendered them, in general, popular; the radicals make common cause with them against the tories, and Stanley and his little party show no inclination to favor the latter. The new House of Commons, judging from the way in which men have formerly voted, would offer a majority of 160. Of these, some have already gone over, some will stay away; but as I cannot fear any great defection against public opinion, I look forward to the speedy defeat of the present Government. In the mean time, we have received a lesson. Whig Ministers must see the mischief of being too tenacious of their own opinions; and on points

not of vital importance to the country must yield to the majority of the Cabinet.

The general election has proved that the reform of Parliament is not complete ; and that many Boroughs (the number, too, has a tendency to increase) may still be carried by bribery and treating. In fact, the Ministerial party spared no exertions of treating, bribing, and intimidation. In the House, there has been a general impression of the partiality of committees ; and as our friends attended very ill, the most important ones have been hitherto composed of a majority of conservatives. I had doubts of again coming into Parliament, chiefly for financial reasons ; but besides, that of all Parliaments I should most have regretted my absence from this, Lord Fitzwilliam's second son not being of age, and a storm threatened at Peterborough, I thought I could not honorably desert my friends. We had a foolish opposition, which was directed principally against me, but my friends carried me safely through : I finished my speech with " War to tories and their principles." I have kept my word and voted against them on every question, until the 4th instant, when it being evident that Peel was only waiting for opportunity to resign, I paired off till the holidays, and

came down into the country. Here I found hole and corner addresses to Peel preparing in all the towns ; none of them daring to call meetings, and all now too late. It was said the King was furious, but that is not in his nature. After having been long assailed by bad advice and misinformation, he at last dismissed Lord Melbourne without consulting any one, and boasted of its being his own work. He is, probably, not now quite so proud of it. To the Queen he said, "Ma'am I have dismissed my Ministers, and appointed the Duke of Wellington." "Yes, sir, to the joy and satisfaction of all your subjects." "That remains to be proved, ma'am." Probably the only condition he will be able to make will be to exclude Brougham.

Sir R. Gresly failed to attend an election committee, for which he made an excuse in the House, which nobody believed, and at which every body laughed. The truth is said to be, that he was sitting for his picture at Dulwich, in the character of the Saviour. On being told this, I was astonished at the remarkable similarity of his *features* to those given to the Saviour. Nothing, however, can be more different than the eye and character of the *countenance*.

The first question on the meeting of Parliament was the choice of the Speaker. I had not an idea of the possibility of ejecting Manners Sutton. He had been a very popular Speaker, though with slender abilities ; but latterly he had become very partial, and his vanity in fancying he could govern the country as Prime Minister, an office which it was believed he was ready to undertake, disgusted many. Never before was there such an attendance, the people having enlisted in the cause ; I believe there were only twenty-eight Members absent. In the course of this Session, I was chairman of the Carlow committee,—more gross partiality on both sides I never saw. The partiality of election committees is rapidly increasing, and the system must be altered : it disgraces the House of Commons. Men on both sides talk of the necessity of supporting their political friends on committees, yet they take an oath to be impartial. I have sat on ten election committees, of which I have been nominee on two, and chairman, I think, on seven, so that I am a tolerably good judge.

Early in June, panting for home, and not thinking the Parliament would sit much longer, I paired off for the season, and came down into the country. I afterwards repented my

precipitation, but my constituents treated me better than I deserved. Next came on the contest with the House of Lords on the municipal bill. It is generally thought Lord Lyndhurst outwitted himself, and suffered the bill to pass the Lords, thinking he had sufficiently altered it to cause its being rejected by the Commons. I doubt, however, whether he could have prevailed on a majority to reject it altogether against the avowed opinion of Peel and Wellington : certainly it came far better out of their hands than we expected. Ministers very wisely accepted the amendments ; and such as it is, it gives a severe blow to tory interests. The Irish Church bill they did reject, and in a manner that will make it very difficult for them to retract. What is then to be done ? I hope they will not drive the people to demand a change in the constitution of the House of Lords. Such a change would be *radical* indeed. The Lords much oftener have afforded a salutary than a baneful check ; and every good measure, in spite of their opposition, had hitherto been successfully carried. At last, the only case in which their obstinacy has been very prejudicial, has been Catholic emancipation ; for as to reform of Parliament, the great difficulty was to get a

House of Commons that would reform itself; and I know not when this could have happened had we not had a King, who, from some sudden and momentary fancy, took into his head to be a reformer himself. Of this he has since heartily repented.

In the Summer, a part of Burdett's family came here on their road Northwards; with them a Dr. Moratt, an intelligent Physician, who had been a volunteer at the Battle of Waterloo. He told me, that from want of adequate means, the last convoy of the wounded (of course the last were enemies) could not be brought off the field till the 26th. Many had been ten, all eight days without food or care on the field of battle; and these, he said, were most easily cured. I do not for a moment doubt his accuracy; but the field must have been frequently visited, and many might have occasionally received some food, or at least water, from the charitable; some little assistance, too, they might obtain from each other. With all allowance, the fact is still remarkable.

My original male black swan died this
 October, spring, but left a brood of four young
 1835. ones, not two months old. This pair
 had hatched in all forty-four, and reared forty.
 He was about sixteen years old. If biscuit is

given to the crax alector, the male breaks it, and, taking the pieces in his mouth, offers them to his mate, who takes them as her right, together with as much as she can pick up besides; this is not the case with Indian corn, which being in plenty is eaten freely by both,—a most polite husband. We have lately reared the young ones easily.

An old white terrier followed me home from Grantham; the next time I went she returned with me, both times perfectly happy. The interval was three weeks. I then found she was the property of the Rev. Mr. Otley, who sat with me on both occasions as a Magistrate. She was a great favorite with all the family, and he was much distressed at the loss. He and I were both mounted on chesnut long-tailed ponies; and the dog had evidently mistaken the two,—a want of sagacity which appears to me very remarkable.

The delight of his friends, the idol of his family, from whom he was never separated; happy in his union with a most amiable and affectionate wife; unassuming in society, yet with talents found equal to every situation in which he has been placed; amongst the hopes of the rising generation, and with the most brilliant prospects before him, Lord Milton is taken from us, at the age of twenty-three.

Stubton,
Jan. 1836.
 There is something so extraordinary in Burdett's recent conduct, that, believing him to be honest, and indeed it would be difficult to assign any dishonest motive for his change, I can only account for it by the recollection that his judgment was never very sound; and that from want of confidence in his own opinion, he has always been governed by others. His excuse for becoming a tory, is fear of O'Connell; yet, O'Connell was hardly less dangerous two years ago, when Burdett cordially joined with me, or I ought rather to say, that I cooperated with him, in endeavouring to persuade Lord Grey to satisfy him, which we had then reason to know might be done on very reasonable terms. Lord Grey always refused to trust him; and it was in vain that we urged that no danger could ensue, as once united to Administration, he would be powerless if he revolted.

It appears that Burdett is now influenced by Sir G. Sinclair, who, to speak the most favorably of him, is a very weak man, with a most powerful memory. Sinclair has publicly denied his influence, but E. B. Clive and I were last year witnesses to a strong and singular proof of its existence. It is a melancholy close of Burdett's public life; it only remains for Sin-

clair to convert him into a bigot. He may, however, live long ; and if he can be happy in a private life, may find ample resources in the affection of many amiable daughters.

There have been lately four vacancies in the representation, two from the death of tories, two of whigs : in all we have failed,—in Northamptonshire, by a very great majority. What is the cause that Northamptonshire is a tory county and can never be won but in a moment of great public excitement ; and that this state of things is much increased by the false measure of giving votes to tenants at will ? The tories were so much elated by this success, that they began to talk of reaction, and of a change of Ministers. At this moment, our spirits were restored by the first effects of the municipal reform, which has just come into operation. The friends of the present Government have so universally succeeded, that unless some untoward event should occur, they appear to me more secure than they have been since the dissolution of Lord Grey's Cabinet. Still, there are great difficulties to encounter in the approaching Session ; particularly from the insane violence of the majority of the House of Lords. How this is to be got over, I am at a loss to conjecture.

It was not got over. The Session was remarkable for the increased violence of the Lords, led on by the able but unprincipled Lyndhurst. Had they shown as much courage five years ago, the reform bill must either have been lost, or carried by a revolution. They have thrown out many most important bills, particularly the Irish municipal bill, though almost spoiled in the House of Commons to conciliate them. I believe Lord Lyndhurst, and many others, were ready for a change of Ministers, but were prevented by the discretion of Peel and the Duke of Wellington ; indeed, it would have been madness to have again tried the experiment of a dissolution of Parliament ; nor do I see any danger to the present Government, unless they should be deserted by the ultra radicals ; or by some act of their own, or from the misrepresentations of their opponents, lose their popularity. Lord Stanley, and his few remaining friends, have unequivocally joined Peel, and now vote against every principle of their former political life. The most melancholy reflection arises from the conduct of Lord Grey, who has never given a cordial support to Lord Melbourne ; yet, no man has asked and received from him so many favors for his family.

The prospect abroad is rather lowering. The wretched conduct of the Spanish Government has enabled Don Carlos, not only to maintain his ground, but even to endanger the kingdom ; and, unless we do something effectual to prevent, or render unavailing the supplies he receives from the different friends of absolutism, liberal Spain may be lost. If, on the other hand, we interfere directly, we may bring on a continental war. It is unfortunate France was not permitted to settle the question, when inclined to do so ; probably now the *Bourbon* Louis Phillipe is more inclined to support the other side, and less afraid to do so, or at least to refuse the promised aid to the Queen. The remaining hope is in the Cortes now just assembled.

What is to be done in our Cortes when again assembled ; is reform to be advanced ? I could wish indeed for our first bill for reform of Parliament, but that is now impossible ; and I should be perfectly satisfied with what I never expect to obtain,—the ejection of the freemen and tenants at will. For any organic change of the House of Lords, I do not think I can ever vote. To bring that House to a conformity with the House of Commons, would be to establish a democracy ; and, ulti-

mately, to abolish the monarchy, which would become an expensive and useless pageant. Far better to wait with patience till the Lords find themselves obliged to yield every beneficial measure, one after another, to the declared sense of the people, exhibited by a greater majority of the House of Commons.

In the mean time, one measure of immense domestic importance has been given us by the wisdom of those now in power; supported, on this occasion only, by all parties. The new poor law every day shows more and more its excellent effects; no other measure could have arrested the frightful progress of the demoralization of the labouring class. The former poor rates were expended in the purchase of idleness, poverty, and vice; everywhere the change produced is most satisfactory. I had at first to combat a foolish but violent jealousy in Newark, against the old union of Claypole, now united to them; but firmness and impartiality have put an end to all that was inconvenient in this, and with a board of well disposed Guardians, in which are many intelligent men, the business is conducted with perfect harmony and advantage.

Last year, I gave Lord Derby a pair of my Wallabys, or bush kangaroos, which had in-

creased to nine. I received from him a pair of Sandwich Island geese, a pair of Carolina teal, and a pair of Brazil whistling ducks, all bred at Knowsley. I have also acquired some Maryland partridges, or quails; they came late in the Summer; one of them, however, laid eggs, from which we reared five young ones, which I believe would have done well, had they not destroyed each other by picking their toes, probably from our omitting to give them gravel. The male Balearic crane is lord of the menagerie, but does not use his power offensively. An emu had laid the female crane on her back and would presently have demolished her, but hearing her cries, the male ran to her assistance, and drove off the emu. The kangaroos resist the emus with success, but the black swans, when they have young ones, fight an equal and dangerous battle with them.

A pair of very large pigeons, called the chequered starlings, were sent by Lord Derby. The female came ill and died in about six weeks: a fortnight before her death, she laid two eggs, but being too ill to sit, that operation was perseveringly performed by the male, with her full consent, as she frequently sat by him. At her death, he abandoned the eggs.

I have had hares from Ireland, and Walter Campbell sent me six very tame ones from the West of Scotland ; but, whether from want of space or of salt in the menagerie, a difference of soil, or want of variety of herbage, all have died. Of six choughs, also, from Scotland, but exactly resembling the Cornish choughs, four soon died ; but the remaining pair* seem quite reconciled, flying often for food to the adjoining fields, but always soon returning.

It is a proof of the high reputation of Lord Melbourne, that he has never been charged with apostacy ; yet, he was brought in for Peterborough, by the late Lord Fitzwilliam, to oppose reform, and did oppose it manfully. At that very time, however, in conversation with me, he justified his future change : he told me, that he thought reform of the House of Commons was unnecessary ; and that the people did not wish it. “ If,” he added, “ the people should ever become seriously and perseveringly desirous of it, I should think it my duty to support it.” Here is an honorable principle with which a man may or may not honestly concur. I believe the people never wished for Catholic emancipation, though they became less

* The male died soon after ; the female had made a nest in the adjoining field, and was killed by vermin.

and less violent against it; and, at length, left it to the wisdom of Parliament. Yet, had the whole nation remained opposed to it, I would at all times have supported what appeared to me called for, on every principle of justice. On the other hand, I am by no means convinced, that the experiment of ballot will be productive of good; yet, it is that sort of question which I think ought to be yielded to the wishes of the people; and, besides, reform has hitherto so utterly failed of putting an end to corruption at elections, that on that account, also, I am become more willing to try the ballot.

The people seem to me becoming more desirous of a reform of the House of Lords. On this I cannot, without still stronger and much stronger experience of the evils arising from the absurd violence of the Lords, concur with them. Who would abandon the greatest incentive to public virtue, and illustrious public services? Would they have rewarded a Wellington, or a Nelson, with *money* only? Who would resign the hope of elevating his family by his own merits? Again, Have they reflected how the change is to be obtained? Not by an act of parliament, to which the Peers will never consent. Is it then to be carried by revolutionary force? That, indeed, applies

chiefly to a change amounting to abolition, but to that any organic change must, in my opinion, arrive.

At the last assizes, in the jail calendar notice was taken of those prisoners who could read and write. The practice, I think, was new, and I know not by what authority. Judge Vaughan took occasion, in his charge, to remark with malicious sarcasm, that all those charged with capital crimes were able to read or write ; the fact is, it would be difficult to find many incapable of both.

It is very difficult to fix the boundary between instinct and reason ; it cannot be denied that many animals exhibit judgment in the exercise of their instinct. Brougham in his *Natural Theology*, has given us all that can be said on this subject, yet he believes in the bird filling the well with stones to raise the water till within his reach ; and in the eagle dropping the tortoise on a stone to obtain the flesh. Neither is he happy in proving the independence of the soul of the infirmities of the body. Where does the soul acquire its ideas but from the senses ? What is the mind in childhood ? Sometimes, indeed, it is vigorous when the body is diseased, but frequently also it shares in the degradation. He thinks that dreams take place

only in the moments of commencing sleep and awaking. I am convinced that the mind is actively employed during the whole of sleep, but his theory of dreams would only tend to prove still more the dependence of the soul upon the body.

It must be acknowledged, that neither our intellectual powers, nor the experience of the world, are sufficient, nor do I believe they ever can be sufficient, to enable us to comprehend these subjects ; yet, on some points, we have the means of forming a tolerably clear judgment. It appears to me that no particle of matter can either be added or annihilated. Creation and destruction are changes in the combination of matter. I conclude from this, that the life, the mind, the soul, or by whatever name we choose to call it, is equally of necessary existence ; though I think Brougham entirely fails to prove, that we are more sure of its existence than of that of the body. Space and time must be unlimited, for fix what bounds you please, both must go beyond them. What *is* immortal, must always have *been* immortal, for an eternity with one end seems impossible ; but our understanding is not capable of comprehending eternity, still less an eternity composed of limitations ; for nothing but the Supreme Being, as far as we

know, can have any but a limited existence in any state of which it appears to be capable ; and it must be, by continual changes, that existence can be multiplied. What then becomes of the soul ? Tell me what I was before my birth, and I can form some guess what I shall be after my death. The mystery of conception by which a body with a soul is brought gradually into existence, is utterly incapable of human explanation. But it is evident, that the globe we inhabit, has suffered many revolutions by which its nature has been entirely changed, and in which it has been fit for the residence of animals totally different from each other. In all these stages it has been provided with inhabitants perfectly suited to it ; and those to whom it no longer afforded a livelihood have perished. Whence then came their successors ? By chance ? Impossible. They must then have been placed here by a Supreme Being, whose mode of operation is hidden from us ; and we may fairly suppose, that the same or similar wonderful circumstances have attended, and will for ever attend, the multitude of worlds which, probably, extend beyond time and space ; and are themselves liable to dissolution, to new and different organization.

Bishop Phillpots, in a charge, asserts that

the Clergy of the Church of England have derived from the Apostles the power of absolution ; that is, that the Supreme Being has abandoned to every Clergyman, virtuous or profligate, the power of determining the future happiness or misery of a sinner in his parish ; yet, this Bishop is neither a fool nor a bigot. What is he then ? The Priesthood, in all ages and in most countries, have represented the Supreme Being as a partisan and a sectarian ; and the laws they have given out in his name, have been more in aid of their dogmas, and their power, than in support of morality.

I have often said, that Burdett has no confidence in his own opinion ; yet, it is unfortunate, that he should now be governed by a man more feeble than himself. Sir G. Sinclair has one quality particularly likely to gain Burdett,—a memory which seems to retain every thing he has ever heard or read. Burdett is always wanting to refer to books and papers, and he finds Sinclair a living and universal dictionary. The ruling passion of Burdett I take to be vanity. Lord Grey, who had a mean opinion of him, still thought him worth considerable attention : from the present Ministers he has received little, and, I believe, feels some resentment. I know not how else

to account for his total abandonment of every political opinion and sacrifice, of every political friendship, he had ever formed. Many years ago, he often talked to me of the immense and disagreeable sacrifice he made by voting in opposition, and a little irritation has led him to act upon this feeling. A party in Westminster urged him to resign a seat which he held without the confidence of his constituents : this they little expected he would do, and when he did resign, because they could not name their own candidate, they would not take advantage of their own act, and they gave him a triumph. At the general election, he could not have been returned for Westminster ; and accepted a requisition from Wiltshire, where, unfortunately, he has succeeded. In the elections in England and Wales, we have been routed more than could have been anticipated by either party. Church in danger, has done something ; but bribery, the £50. voters, and our neglect of the registers, have done more. With the money, the gentry, the Church, all against us, it is very difficult for us to succeed without some immediate cause for excitement ; yet, with the young Queen giving her entire confidence to Lord Melbourne, I expected a better result. Had it not been for

Ireland we should have been in a minority ; as it is, Ministers have still a small majority. On Church questions, they must expect to be beaten : I hope on no others. If they are firm, I still expect to see many refuse to oppose the Government of a young and interesting Queen. I do not even despair of the House of Lords, as every new Bishop and new Peer will be a liberal. It is something too to have gotten rid of the Duke of Cumberland ; and still more, that he has shewn himself in his true colours by attempting to set aside the constitution (not a very free one) of Hanover. I hope he will find this somewhat a more difficult task than he anticipated.

At the election at Sleaford, there was a very large assemblage of people. No gentry, but those who went to support Handley. The majority of the crowd were certainly brought by Heathcote ; yet I, who had occasion to treat his parliamentary conduct with great severity, was heard as well as every one else, with perfect attention. This proved great good humour and little political feeling ; in fact, I know no county where there is less. In the towns, too, (and I may include Newark) the interest taken at an election is all personal and local, in a very slight degree patriotic.

When I once hinted to Brougham that
 December, though I was no advocate for ballot,
 1837. annual parliaments, or universal suffrage ; yet, I thought they ought to be opposed by argument, as there was nothing in them which deserved contempt ; he treated my remark with great severity, and threatened to be *down upon me*. He is now a convert to ballot, a change which I have no right to blame, as I have myself undergone it ; and, probably, from the same exertion of reason operating on new circumstances.

This has been personally to me an unfortunate year. In the Spring, I had a slight concussion of the brain, from a fall on the North Road. The excessive heat at the time of the general election, brought on the shingles, which seemed to awake a nerve near the heart, injured some years before by cupping, which, however, probably saved my life. The pain for five nights was intolerable, and in the day, I had frequent palpitations and intermissions of pulse, which caused some apprehension but no pain. When scarcely recovered, and with a bad cold and cough, I went to the meeting of Parliament, which turned out little necessary ; but the attendance of more than six hundred Members proved such expectation.

I have returned to resume a course of medicine, under Brodie ; and have paired off with my old ally, Burdett. He has leave to speak on the Irish question, on which we expect him to do *us* more good than harm.

Last week, died in London, my valuable friend and most excellent agent, W. E. Talents. His parents were honest and respectable persons in their stations : his Father was for many years Clerk to my Father, acting as a Magistrate at Newark. He himself was the author of his own fortunes. Great abilities and indefatigable industry raised him to the first rank and reputation as a country Solicitor. He was the agent of almost all the nobility and principal gentry in a far extended circle round Newark ; and though of adverse political opinions, was employed by the reforming Administration in several important and confidential commissions. His integrity, liberal sentiments, and unassuming manners, were such, that even during life his superiority was pardoned, and his prosperity created little envy. He was constant in his affectionate acknowledgments to me for my early friendship, and for services of which he had conferred more than he received.

At length, this Session has been brought to

a conclusion ; if it has disappointed the country, it is not the fault of Ministers. There was a hope that the tories had relented with regard to Ireland, and that the opposition of the Lords would be mitigated ; unfortunately when they began to act, the counsels of the most violent prevailed. The Irish tithe bill has been passed, but so mutilated, that it affords us no cause of triumph. The Irish Church and municipal bills were so changed by the Lords, that it became necessary to reject them. A poor law bill has passed for Ireland. This is no political measure ; I voted against it, whether rightly or not, time alone can shew. It seemed to me a dangerous experiment, but as it is popular amongst the Irish gentry, it is to be hoped it may be well administered and prove successful. The speeches of Brougham and Wellington give hopes of getting rid, in the next Session, of those infectious nurseries of vice and crime, the beer-shops.

On the Irish Church bill, Ministers were in great danger from their giving up the appropriation clause. They were saved, as has happened before, by the precipitancy of Peel : he brought forward the subject and made it a party question, which reunited our scattered

host. I believe he afterwards saw his error with vexation. I was very little in the House, being long ill. I was generally paired off, and remained at home. My worthy constituents, who are never unreasonable, were perfectly satisfied; particularly as I voted for ballot. I voted indeed against their favorite measure of immediate emancipation to the West India Negroes: a portion of my friends there were at first angry, but I gave them my reasons, and the arguments which biassed my mind; and, though by no means converted, they acknowledged my right to decide for myself. The next Session will be awful, the Irish must be satisfied or outrageous.

As the coronation approached, Croker wrote a most malicious article in the *Quarterly Review* against Soult, evidently for the purpose of preparing a hostile reception for him in this country. The Duke of Wellington entreated its suppression, but in vain; it appeared in all its bad taste and viciousness. The good feeling and good sense of the nation defeated it; never was any stranger received with such enthusiastic applause as the venerable Marshal. The Queen concurred in the opinion of her people; all the honors at court were for him, to the great annoyance of some of the other

Ambassadors and particularly the Russian. Such a circumstance may not a little contribute to improve the harmony which subsists between the two nations.

At the coronation, the superannuated Bishop of Bath turned over two or three leaves instead of one, and by that means omitted almost all the Catholic renunciations which the Queen was to make. The Subdean of Westminster, acting for the Dean, went up to the Queen to inform her; and is supposed to have added, that it probably was of no consequence. The Queen thought otherwise, and insisted on recommencing. A party use might have been made of the omission.

A war threatened in India appears to have
December. its origin in Russian intrigues. They began with urging the Shah of Persia to obtain possession of Herat, which would have approached them to India, but in this they have been foiled by our diplomacy, and probably our Indian army will have little to do; or if any of the native powers rise against us, the effect, most probably, will only be to increase our unwieldy empire in that quarter, as well as our still more unwieldy debt. Still I cannot help wishing to see a war with Russia before it has quite annihilated the Poles and

Circassians, and seized on the Turkish provinces. It is so vulnerable in the Baltic and Black Sea, that I cannot feel much anxiety as to the result. When we consider how near the Poles were to success, in their last great struggle, how deeply we must lament the feebleness of Lord Grey at that moment for decision. A demonstration in the Baltic would, it always appeared to me, have been sufficient; and if we could only have neutralized Prussia, Poland would have been saved. But Lord Grey had unfortunately declared non-interference to be the fundamental principles of his Administration; thus, we ceased to interfere, when we could have done it with most justice and honour.

I think it was before the inauguration dinner at Edinburgh, in honour of Brougham, that the latter said something so offensive to the Duke of Hamilton, that he sent an excuse and returned home. Brougham, very angry, said "I'll unduke him." At one of the last sittings of the committee of privileges on the claims to the Earldom of Annandale, Brougham, then Chancellor, declared his opinion that Hope Johnston had made good his claim; and it was expected that the committee would so have reported to the House next day. The

claim was, however, rejected on the ground of the custom, before the union, of Scotch Peers surrendering their titles to the King, and receiving them back with the original dates and new limitations.

The reason that Brougham gave up the opinion he had declared in the committee of privileges, in favor of the claim of Hope Johnston to the Earldom of Annandale, was, that he had received a letter from Cranston, the learned Scotch Judge, in which he gave him a long list of the Scotch Peers who would be deprived of their titles by such a judgment. Hope Johnston was then offered an English Peerage, which he refused.

Had Brougham's declaration prevailed, the dukedom of Hamilton being in the same predicament, would have passed to the Earl of Derby; but the Dukedom of Brandon would have remained with the Duke of Hamilton.

An insurrection in Canada threatened a war
 January, 1839. of very inconvenient expense; and which, by involving us with the American States, might even prove unsuccessful. The American Government acted a friendly part towards us, but it might have had less power, and even possibly less inclination to control its subjects, if the insurgents had

shewn themselves in a more respectable position ; fortunately for us, they exhibited neither conduct nor courage, and have been easily suppressed. The benevolent Lord Gosford, sent over at the beginning of the troubles, was unequal to the task : his successor, Lord Durham, was proceeding with vigour and success ; but, being insulted by the factious Opposition at home, and, perhaps, not sufficiently supported and defended by Ministers, he has thrown up his appointment and returned home. Ought he to have returned without first obtaining the Queen's permission ? Is he justified in sacrificing the interests of his country to personal feelings ? We shall soon hear his defence.

Russia appears to be pushing the Persians Eastwards, no doubt with a view to follow them towards our Indian possessions. The decisive conduct of the East India Company has foiled their intrigues. I can hardly rejoice at it. War with Russia cannot very long be evaded, and I had rather it should take place before the Poles and Circassians are annihilated. The favorable termination of these dangers places Ministers, as far as can be well foreseen, in a stronger situation than last Session. Bal- lot they ought no longer to oppose as a Government. Corn is becoming scarce and dear, and

neither America nor the European continent are in circumstances to aid us. This will greatly strengthen the opposition to the present corn laws. I have always thought them bad, and wished for a permanent duty; and I should now be satisfied with a much less duty than I formerly thought necessary. My change of opinion in this respect arises from seeing the increasing disposition abroad to impede our commerce and rival our manufactures, unless we consent to receive their corn on reasonable terms; and I very much doubt whether even the agriculturists will suffer by the change, as the manufacturers, becoming more prosperous, will become better customers to them.

I spent the last days of August at Knowsley. Lord Derby was in good spirits, but evidently unwell. I had scarcely left him when he was afflicted with a terrible paralytic stroke. Lord Stanley hastened to him: the father and son, totally differing in politics and tastes, live together on the most affectionate terms. Lord Derby is one of the most benevolent of men, and bears his evils with exemplary patience. His son is beloved in private life; his bad temper appears no where but in the House of Commons. In my zoological transactions

with Lord Derby, I received, this year, two weasel-headed armadillas, two coypus, a pair of corak, and a pair of Zedak pigeons, and a second pair of Summer ducks.

Louis XVI. was a well meaning man, but deficient in talents, in firmness, and in sincerity. Louis XVIII. was more able, but worthless. Charles X. was the most sincere of the family : he had a lively wit in conversation, which imposed upon the French ; but he was without courage and without ability, profligate in early life, a bigot in its more advanced stage. He might, probably, have continued to reign from the impossibility of finding a Minister weak enough to adopt his despotic and criminal objects ; but such a one he unfortunately for himself, fortunately for France, found in Polignac, a man resembling him in bigotry and in folly. There is every reason to suppose him to be his son, as Charles was always believed to have intrigued with the mother. Never was a revolution attempted with so little preparation, or with such total want of consideration ; had energetic and prudent measures been adopted, they must have succeeded for the time ; and who knows how soon the continental powers would have interfered to make resistance vain. As it was,

its effect was deeply felt in this country, for the popular revolution which it occasioned, gave us reform of Parliament,—till then, a hopeless speculation. Louis Phillipe, the present King and *ruler* of France, is, as far as he dare avow himself, a perfect Bourbon; he is now committed with his people, and it will require all his abilities to bring his present policy to a successful issue.

On the death of Lord Zetland, the seat at Richmond, vacated by his son and successor, was to have been filled by George Fitzwilliam, lately come of age; but an opponent offering himself, the present Lord Zetland's friends persuaded him, that one of his own family was necessary as a candidate. It appears, however, that G. Fitzwilliam would have been chosen without difficulty. Under these circumstances, I could not avoid offering my seat for him. Lord Fitzwilliam was inclined to accept the offer, being desirous that his son should be in Parliament; but meeting with my old friend Sir Ronald Ferguson, he extracted from him, that, being recovered from my long indisposition, I had, in fact, no wish to abdicate; after this he would no longer hear of it. I am not quite satisfied that I ought not to have put an end to the dilemma, by at once resigning; and,

certainly, I should have done so, had I not thought the resignation ought rather to have come from my colleague, the least popular of the two.

The Lords, by a small majority, have voted an enquiry into the conduct of Lord Normanby, in Ireland; and it was painful to see the Duke of Wellington lend himself to so factious a measure, and still more so to read his assertion, that the vote was not in hostility to Ministers; yet, notwithstanding all the credit he has gained for some degree of candour and fairness, when has he hesitated on any measure likely to injure the present Government? After this, Lord John Russell could not but call upon the House of Commons to declare whether they will sanction or disapprove the principles of toleration and impartiality on which they have governed Ireland. On the 15th their fate is to be decided. If the question rest simply on the motion to be made by Lord John, the issue cannot, I think, be doubtful; but should it be converted by some amendment into a vote of confidence on general grounds, the radicals, now in rather a rabid state, may join the tories, and either form a majority, or approach so near to it, as to oblige Ministers to resign. Yet I do not expect this

result; for it is evident that had the tories wished to assume the government, they would have brought forward at an earlier period some question on which they could have the concurrence of the radicals; but they must be sensible that until the Irish question is settled, they would find themselves in a very difficult and dangerous position, if in power.

The aspect of affairs is somewhat threatening both in North America and the East Indies; but I confess the good understanding between our Government and that of America leaves me but little apprehension in that quarter. In the East Indies, every native power must wish our destruction; but union amongst them is difficult, and even if obtained, they are weak and we are strong. Russia may threaten but will not act.

I used to live much with Burdett, and I had no desire to estrange myself from him on account of his political apostacy; nor has he shown any want of kindness towards me, but confidence was destroyed, and at his table I knew not what company I might have met. Once before I left Town, he made a party of some of his former friends; he was ill, but in good humour, and we passed the day agreeably.

Died my hostile Bishop of Peterborough.

May. Herbert Marsh had a great deal of

Greek, Hebrew, and Divinity, but in all other respects was one of the most foolish men I ever knew. His violence in politics, very unbecoming a Bishop, was probably increased by the influence of his wife and sons. His insolent conduct and indecent language, respecting the late Lord Fitzwilliam, can only be recollected with disgust and contempt.

The Morning Post, containing outrageous abuse of Lord Melbourne, fell into the Queen's hands : she tore it in pieces, and desired the paper might never again enter the Palace. In the unfortunate affair of Lady Flora Hastings, no one seems to have been guilty of more than imprudence, except Sir James Clark. Had his charge been just, he probably ought to have been silent ; but to have made it, without having previously ascertained its truth, was abominable ; he ought to have been instantly dismissed, but he had had the care of the Queen's health during her whole life. Who then could propose to her to part with him ?

Our brilliant successes in India, the failure
 of Russian intrigues, the ruin of Don
 January, 1840. Carlos, in Spain, and the vigour and

judicious conduct of suppressing the outbreak of the chartists, must operate favorably to Ministers; and I hope the Queen's marriage, should it produce an exclusion to the King of Hanover, will increase their strength. The tories are rabid, and hesitate at no means by which they can annoy the Government; but their means are exerted to a degree which rather injures than promotes their cause; and they are so divided, and differ so much in principle, that Peel will have a very difficult part to act.

The Summer has been productive of more rain than I ever remember; it has continued throughout the Autumn, and though the crops have been plentiful, much hay has been destroyed, and a great portion of the corn damaged: the country now is very unhealthy.

In my menagerie, a Balearic crane escaping was shot, and its mate died of grief. The female emu being introduced too soon to the male, who was taking charge of two young ones, was immediately killed by him. The porcupines bred and reared two fine young ones.

History of W. Emmonds, chiefly from his own incidental confessions.

W. Emmonds was a pleasing, handsome

young man, apprentice to a carpenter at Claypole, his native place. He was industrious, attentive, and steady, and became an excellent carpenter. He worked for some years in my carpenter's yard, and conducted himself well. He had married a fine woman but of most vicious character, to whom he was exceedingly attached: to her he gave all his earnings, but she used to say to him, "Make haste, finish your supper and go out. Do not imagine I can live on eighteen shillings a week." He formed a gang of thieves at Claypole; one of them rented a few acres of land, with a small barn; this enabled them to sell their corn at Newark without being there suspected, and to effect their robberies which were principally of corn. They might easily have been detected but for the extreme timidity of the Claypole farmers. At length, breaking open a barn of mine, they were instantly apprehended and convicted. Emmonds and four others were transported to New Holland. Three of them had murdered an old woman of Claypole, who had interrupted them. They stabbed her in the pope's eye, then burned her in the yard, and set her in her own chair before the fire, that it might be thought she had been burned by accident; neither the chair, however, nor

the cushion were even singed. From the stupidity of the coroner and the people of the house, no sufficient evidence of this murder was obtained till it was related by one of the party, after he had been sentenced for the robberies. I was at the time in London. They had determined upon three other murders, which were to have been perpetrated the week after they were secured. W. Emmonds and his wife had murdered a soldier at Nottingham long before this.

About two years and a half ago, after two years only of his sentence had expired, Emmonds escaped from Sidney by swimming : he was fired at and thought to have been killed. He landed again in the country, and was hospitably received by two different settlers, with the last of whom he forcibly exchanged clothing. He then by some means found his way to a foreign ship. What became of him for two years is unknown, but six months ago he suddenly visited his family, at eleven at night, at Claypole feast. He gave his wife between thirty and forty guineas, (gold is not now paid in wages,) and a repeating watch and rings. He was in possession of much money, and showed watches and rings ; after this, he was in frequent communication with his fami-

ly, but with so much precaution that he could not be apprehended. In his absence his wife had formed a connection with a young laborer of bad character and conduct. Emmonds, at last, went to reside under a feigned name at Liverpool, where he was earning twenty-four shillings a week. He sent for his wife and children determined to go to America. She could not convey her family and property to Liverpool without assistance, and therefore trusted her lover Somers with the secret. After two or three days' separation, crying bitterly, he said he could not live without her, and came and gave the information to me. I could not trust him, but sent two able-bodied men with him, who apprehended Emmonds without resistance : he was at dinner with his family. At Claypole, the indignation against the wife has created a favorable sentiment towards him, in which I should, perhaps, to a certain degree have concurred, were it not for the following diabolical act, related with apparent satisfaction by himself. "I stabbed a man near Nottingham, having pulled him off his horse. I took what he had : I would not murder him myself, so I fixed his foot in the stirrup and then started his horse." The horse stopped to graze and the man escaped.

This extraordinary man was convicted at Liverpool of returning from transportation. His more extraordinary wife is now in the workhouse at Claypole, with her family, apparently contented, cheerfully performing all the hard work imposed upon her, behaving well, and making herself very useful. She has since left the workhouse, and kept a discreditable house near Nottingham.

A boy in the workhouse having conducted himself well, and exhibited talents and industry, I promised him an apprenticeship. He preferred one of a very uninviting sort, (I forget what,) but no opportunity offering, he was received as servant to a respectable solicitor, in London, with promise of a clerkship. He appeared much pleased with his place, gave great satisfaction, no fear but that of being spoiled, when suddenly he packed up his clothes, ran away, and has not since been heard of. So much for our future chancellor.

He returned to the workhouse, having been ill used in his place by servants : he is now an apprentice.

I spent an agreeable week in the last month with my friends at Wentworth, and was never in better health. Soon after my return, having caught a bad cold, I had daily attacks

of the palpitations and intermission of pulse, from which I have been completely relieved by Dr. Jeafferson, of Grantham.

Sackville, Earl of Thanet, last but one, was a man of a strong natural understanding, but, unfortunately, devoted to deep play. Games of skill, in which he excelled, did not afford sufficient excitement to his mind, and he wasted his nights at faro and hazard, and nearly ruined a very fine estate. He married a foreigner, who proved to be a very superior woman, and exercised an unbounded influence over him. She so entirely reformed him, that, by a strict economy, he discharged all the debts with which he had burthened his property. On her death, he relapsed into his former reckless course of life, and died nearly ruined. His two brothers and successors have restored the fortunes of the family by their penurious habits.

The last Session ended with no very cheerful prospect for our Ministers. It was evident that Peel, if he wished it, could have ousted them ; but, aware of his own difficulties, he probably found as much manœuvring necessary to avoid being Minister, without offending his own party, as others would have employed to obtain the object. How long is

such a state of things to continue? The birth of an heir to the crown, and the very brilliant successes which have been accomplished by the policy of Lord Palmerston, ought to give new strength to the Queen's Administration; but of this I have little hope, a few weeks will show what we have to expect.

We have had six weeks of very severe weather. The thermometer sometimes
 Jan. 1841. below zero. My kangaroos (*Macropus benettii*) had, hitherto, been always healthy, and had greatly multiplied; but during the present year, besides the old female, I have lost five; and amongst them, the three young ones of this year: there remain only one male and two females.

During the frost, a vast number of the gold fish, probably about one hundred, have died. They have never before suffered from cold. In the course of the year, my menagerie has been increased by a secretary given me by a friend, by the purchase of two cassowaries from Java, two Balearic cranes, and a beautiful water tortoise, brought me from Canada by H. Ainslie. Lord Derby's manager has also purchased for me, at Liverpool, two caryamas, and two rheas; the female of the latter unfortunately died, the other three birds remain at Knowsley till the Spring.

At Claypole, the wells were supplied only by socage from rains, or from the rain, excepting two, which at no great depth produced excellent spring water. I accordingly deepened a well on a farm of my own, and the one at the workhouse. Mine produces water too salt to be used, that at the workhouse supplies two pumps; one delivers excellent water filtered through the soil from the river, the other, which has a pipe nine yards longer, affords salt water similar to that in the well just described; thus it appears that the river water lies upon the salt water without mixing with it. No salt water was known before at Claypole.

On my complimenting Moore on his impartiality in the life of Sheridan, he told me he regretted having suppressed many facts, and represented his character much too favorably.

It is a strange proof the Cambridge Clergy have given of their regard to morals, by choosing for their high steward a man who subsisted for some years by the prostitution of his wife.

This year, I have begun largely to pay one of the taxes of long life. Having never been at a public school, I had few early friends, and they have all long been gone. Of those I obtained at Cambridge, I have this year lost almost the only remaining one, whom, indeed,

I seldom saw, Charlton Byam Wollaston; and nearly at the same time, I have been deprived of my worthy friends John Harcourt Powel, and Robert Ferguson, of Raith, with both of whom I lived much in London.

Died one of my oldest remaining and most
 April. valued friends, General Sir Ronald Ferguson, a brave and distinguished officer, most affectionate in private life, of honor and integrity unimpeached, an uncompromising patriot; he will be regretted by the world for a fortnight, and by a few faithful friends to the remainder of our lives.

Eyre, the Surgeon, called upon his friend and neighbour Lord Lyndhurst, soon after he had ratted. "I find," said he, "your Lordship has changed your politics." "Yes," said Lady Lyndhurst, "and is ready to change them again, if you will make it worth his while." The Queen says her next child must be like Sir Robert Peel, as she can think of nothing else night or day.

It was no longer possible for Ministers to carry on the Government, and the only consideration was, in what manner to close the scene. They determined to bring forward a budget, founded on free trade and a reform of the corn laws; on this they were sure to be

beaten, but they thought it a good question on which to appeal to the people ; and, besides, it was the only rational way to relieve the country from its financial difficulties and commercial distress. They reckoned upon a debate which might enlighten the constituency, and create an excitement in their favor ; but Peel anticipated and defeated their object by a vote of want of confidence, which he carried by a majority of one. Parliament was then dissolved.

In the counties, an immense outcry was raised by the landed gentry, who trembled for their rents. The yeomanry were equally alarmed, and the commercial part of the community were not sufficiently convinced of the sincerity of Ministers to give them the cordial support which might have been expected ; add to this, the enormous sums lavished on the elections by the tories. I believe Lord Melbourne had, at one time, hoped for a majority.

Never was a more decisive defeat ; and the majority of the tories is about eighty, to be somewhat, but not essentially, diminished by election committees. I have no doubt that Lord John Russell, Lord Clarendon, and some others of the Cabinet, had long wished to realise the objects of the budget, but it was not

till the Ministry was in danger they could gain a majority in the Cabinet. On the corn question, Peel endeavoured to avoid committing himself, and I was very sorry he was so much pressed upon. It might be better for the party, but it seemed to me far worse for the country, that he should be made to declare himself against measures which he probably approves; as, however, he does not value himself much on his sincerity, he will probably find pretences, or rather good grounds, for evading his professions; in fact, reason must prevail, and the fate of the monopolists will be much hastened, if the harvest should prove bad throughout the greater part of Europe, as there appears every reason to expect.

Peel will have but an uneasy seat. He will soon disgust the tories, who, even now, have little confidence in him, and support him only because they have no choice but between him and the whigs. In Ireland, he will have difficulties almost insurmountable; his opponents will fairly recover their popularity, and whenever there is an available reaction in the country, he cannot, like Pitt, rely on the support of a friendly Court.

Some of the elections were foolishly lost. Had not Handley left his post, I have no

doubt he might have remained our representative as well as Heathcote, but how the latter would have voted it would be difficult to guess. By the liberal conduct of Lord Fitzwilliam, carried to a degree which did not distinguish between friends and enemies, and the error of not renewing a very important church lease, I had a more severe battle to fight at Peterborough than I could have expected; and, indeed, it was thought any other might have been beaten. I had, however, the advantage of an excellent colleague in G. Fitzwilliam, and was seated for the ninth time by a majority of eleven. I believe measures are now taking which will improve the interest for the future. John Dundas being about to retire from York, Lord Zetland consulted me about a successor, and I introduced my friend Yorke to him.

Yorke is the son of the famous Redhead Yorke. He was tutor to my ward, Sir John Thorold, and conducted himself in a manner to command my esteem and gratitude. He has since inherited considerable property,* and married a most amiable and delightful woman, daughter to the last Lord Brandon. He was very anxious to come into Parliament, spoke well in addressing his constituents, and was

* This was not true though asserted by him.

successful. It remains to be seen whether his powers of oratory will succeed in the House of Commons.

The most severe and unexpected blow we received at this general election, was the defeat of Lord Morpeth and Lord Milton in the West Riding of Yorkshire, by a great majority. The panic caused by the attack upon the corn monopoly, in the feeble minds of the squirearchy, was the principal cause. Amongst others, Sir W. Coke, who had always been a zealous and firm supporter, turned against them. I went up and voted on the address, and then immediately returned.

Before I left London, Lord Charlemont talked to me about Lady Charlemont's situation, which we both inclined to think she ought to resign, but that she could not do it without consulting the Queen. The Queen said there was no necessity whatever for her resignation, and this was confirmed by Lord Melbourne, which was decisive. I immediately communicated these circumstances to Lord Barham. Lady Barham was abroad. I was fortunate to stop her resignation, which Lord Barham had determined to have sent next day. Sir J. Astley accidentally told me, that for two years, the Attorney General had constantly

postponed the very little that was necessary on his part, to determine the barony of Hastings in his favor. It had been agreed betwixt him and the other claimant, L'Estrange, I suppose on some consideration of expense, that it should be left to him, whose friends happened to be in power, and there was then only one day left, on which the committee of privileges would meet during that Session. I accordingly made Lord Melbourne acquainted with this, and Sir J. Astley became Lord Hastings. I never could understand why the Attorney General insisted on being Chancellor of Ireland, to the great discontent of Plunket, when he knew he could not hold the seals six weeks, and was obliged to engage not to take the pension ; nor do I quite see why Lord Melbourne should have consented to so unpopular a measure. Wilde endeavoured to explain it to me, but totally failed.

When the last batch of Peers was created, Lord Oranmore had an assurance of being recommended by Lord Morpeth, but was told that none could then be made, but those who had received absolute promises. To have made more, would, I think, have been highly improper.

Lord Fitzwilliam had asked me to meet

Lord Melbourne, at Wentworth, which would have given me great pleasure, but he did not go there, and I postponed my visit till I can see them at Milton, in my way to the meeting of Parliament.

In the islands of my menagerie are wigwams
 of earth roofed with weeds. At the
 Stubton,
 Jan. 1842. usual time in January or February
 last, a black swan made her nest, not in the wigwam, but in the door-way. In about a week, there came a rain which trickled from the roof upon the centre of the nest. The swan, without quitting her nest, with the assistance of her mate, who assiduously brought her the materials, lengthened the nest about eighteen inches from the door-way, and, at night, constantly moved the eggs to the new centre. The operation, which I watched myself, occupied about ten days; the eggs, four in number, were all successfully hatched. From three different quarters, I obtained one male and two female rheas; unfortunately, I could not obtain the females till rather late in the year. They laid eleven eggs, and as they showed no inclination to sit, I put eight of the eggs under four turkeys. Three of the eggs were bad. The three turkeys who succeeded in hatching, all attacked the young ones

as monsters as soon as they appeared. One was killed and another wounded before they could be taken from them ; on the rest being successively put under them the next night, they uniformly took the greatest maternal care of them. Two, which died in about a fortnight, were found to have been killed by vegetable matter, which had formed into balls, in the stomach. The two remaining ones were then turned out into the menagerie, and employed their whole time in running after insects. This seemed the more remarkable, as the old ones exist entirely on vegetable food : the two lived five or six weeks. With this experience we hope to be more successful this year.

Miss Edwards was a Scotch heiress of large fortune. The old Duchess of Hamilton advised her son, Lord Anne, to pay his addresses to her ; he was not repulsed, and the birth of a son ensued. Lord Anne then pressed her to marry him, but she said she wanted an heir, but not a master. He told her he should take home his son, and educate him himself. On this, she sent for the coachman. "John, whose son is this ?" "Mine, Ma'm." Thus ended his claim. The son was Mr. Edwards, father to the late Sir Gerard Noel, and grandfather to the present Earl of Gainsborough. He was

rather more mad than his mother, but being married to the eldest sister of the last of the Noels, Lady Jane, a woman of strong character, as well as excellent disposition, he passed tolerably well through life.

Though I cannot affirm, I fully believe the following story. Peel went to the Queen to propose a batch of Peers. She asked him his object : he said to do honor to the birth of the Prince of Wales. She replied, that had he wished it to strengthen his administration, she could not have objected ; but she did not desire any compliments on the occasion. Peel, however, must create Peers, or it will be thought he has not the power to do so.

The Marquess of Hertford is dead at last. I doubt whether he has left a worse man behind him. He was in the habit of attending Newgate before executions, not to endeavour to rescue innocence, or discover what might palliate crime, and justify pardon, but to watch the agony of the last hour. At Verdun, being congratulated on winning at play, he said it gave him little satisfaction ; his pleasure was to win a poor man's last stake, then he enjoyed his own triumph, and his opponent's misery.

This year, died my old tutor, Robert De-verel, formerly Pedley. He wrote works

which decidedly proved insanity, and his conduct was also, sometimes, such as to admit of no other excuse ; yet, he was the best tutor I could have had ; for with a private education, without companions of any ability, I was in need of his strange and active imagination, to excite my reasoning faculties.

The history of the Beckfords, with whom he was, in some degree, connected, is curious. Beckford, an opulent West India Merchant, member for London, and long its chief leader, obtained credit for being an exalted patriot, and many of his fellow citizens left him guardian to their children. Some of these he appears, by means more easily accomplished in those days than at present, to have robbed ; and it is partly by the recovering of their estates that his son Beckford, of Fonthill, has been reduced to very diminished circumstances. But other causes have operated : the three Wildmans, sons, I have been informed, of a blacksmith at Fonthill, obtained the management of his estate, as agent, lawyer, and merchant consignée. In no very long period, they obtained from it sufficient wealth for the purchase of Newstead Abbey and Chilham Castle. Pedley, brother of Deverel, having been admitted into their office, in Jamaica, contrived

to undermine their influence, and to succeed them in the management of the West India estates. In this, I fear I was, unintentionally, an accomplice ; as I lent Deverel the money which fitted out his brother. Pedley is lately dead, and has left behind him an estate, of at least £10,000 per annum, inherited by a niece.

The election petitions have gone much against us. Bribery, to a shocking extent, was practised by both parties ; but it seems the tories understood corruption better than our friends, and were not so easily detected. By an act of Lord John Russell, more power was given to committees, and many were unseated for bribery ; many, also, were saved by compromises, which, at last, attracted the attention of the House of Commons. The elections since the general election have increased Peel's majority, now irresistible. The tories dislike him, but they will not the less support him, as it is their only means of retaining power. This man, a solitary boy at school, without personal friends, or associates in power ; sole Minister, and seeking neither to disguise his despotism, nor to conciliate his supporters ; has now in his hands the continuation of our distress, or the means by which we may hope for the return of prosperity. There is much

reason to suppose, that if Lord Melbourne's Administration had not announced a reform of the corn laws, Peel would have adopted that measure ; and the manner in which he avoided to commit himself on that subject, affords the hope that he may do so in the next Session. Much mischief has already occurred from that pernicious monopoly, by converting the Americans and Germans into manufacturers ; every further delay must add to our misfortunes and our danger ; and Peel can hardly be blind to the absolute necessity of a wiser course. The chartists have endeavoured to take advantage of the starving condition of the manufacturers, to give a democratic and factious direction to their discontent, but in this they have signally failed. In the mean time, O'Connell is renewing agitation in Ireland, with the most mischievous propositions—not only repeal and universal suffrage—but fixity of rents ; that is, as explained to me, that every tenant is to have an hereditary right in the land at his present rent.

Peel's increasing arrogance renders him liable to frequent disturbance of temper, and there is much reason to doubt the continuation of his health. He is by no means on good terms with Lord Stanley, who may not long submit to the subserviencies required of him.

October,
1842.

I have been to Buxton for the cure of lumbago, which, though not very bad, I wished to check before it became so. The place was disagreeable, the company unusually bad, partly from the alarm of riots, felt with little reason. I was not well there, and derived no benefit in a week, during which I remained there. In my way home, I passed three days at Chatsworth, where were the Fitzwilliams, and a very agreeable party. The principal object of admiration in that magnificent establishment, is the conservatory, covering more than three quarters of an acre, built and laid out with the greatest taste and judgment. The whole is the work of Paxton, planned by his own genius and courage, contrary to the opinion of the eminent architects consulted, but now allowed by them to have been most successfully executed. Paxton is, probably, the ablest gardener in Europe, and has raised himself to eminence by native genius, unceasing activity, and unblemished character. This is much to say of a man yet alive, but I do not expect to have ever to retract it.

It is at Chatsworth alone, the Duke of Devonshire's character can be fully appreciated. There, are seen and felt his generous hospitality, his unaffected friendly attentions, and a

benevolence extending to every class, which I have never known surpassed.

I afterwards spent a week at Wentworth, where was a large party to meet the American Ambassador, a well-informed, agreeable man. Talking with Lord Denman on the strange insult offered by Peel to the late Chancellor, when he proposed to make him an inferior Vice Chancellor in his own court, Lord Denman told me the measure was prompted by Brougham ; who, however, he said, had the merit of first suggesting Lord Cottenham, as a fit man for the office of Chancellor, when he found he could not return to it himself.

A mawkish exaggerated humanity, of which
 1843. the felon has the principal benefit, is now prevailing in this country. Romilly, who first made a persevering, and, at last successful opposition to our bloody code of laws, would, I cannot doubt, have equally opposed the absurd length to which his principle is now carried. How can any reasonable man approve the abolition of the punishment of death for arson ? Murder may have had such provocation as to be capable of palliation, but a wilful incendiary can have had none but the most diabolical motives. I much doubt whether forgery has not been increased since

the punishment of death was withdrawn from it. It is true, that in some cases the punishment of transportation may be rendered worse than death ; but then it is liable to great irregularity and partiality, and I have never yet heard of its worst horrors being imposed upon any wealthy, or well connected person.

Two parties, equally intolerant, are labouring to increase the power of the church, (their church,) defeating the objects and comforts of life, by carrying to excess the formal ceremonies of religion, which the puseyites and evangelicals mistake for religion itself. They are powerfully aided by many who have no other object than to be thought to possess much religious zeal ; and by a still greater number, who are influenced by fear, the greatest supporter of bigotry. This mischief must increase, till it has so far disgusted the population, that a reaction brings back the profligacy of the age of Charles II.

In alliance with these, is the missionary system. When the Europeans discover an island with a numerous and contented population, they impose upon the chiefs, perhaps make them drunk, and purchase their territory. In a short time, they are supplied with all our vices and diseases ; their numbers are nearly

annihilated, but the remainder are baptized; and though leading the wretched lives of monks and slaves, are consoled by the certainty of going to heaven. One of the best of the missionaries, Williams, sent over from Tahiti, a subscription of nearly £1000 to the British Missionary Society, and boasted that it was nearly all the money in the island; thus acknowledging that he had robbed them of every means of real improvement, and provision for defence, for an object utterly foreign to their interests.

Of several rheas which I obtained by purchase or exchange, one male only remained. Lord Fitzwilliam having a solitary young female, gave it me in the year 1841. Some eggs were hatched by turkeys, but could not be reared; neither of the rheas would sit. During the last year, forty-four eggs were laid, and the male most perseveringly sat on three broods. Nine were hatched, of which we could only rear three; of these, I gave a pair to Lord Fitzwilliam. Lord Derby has reared four, and I believe there have been no others brought up in England.

The large kangaroos first brought over are nearly extinct. Lord Derby has attempted to revive the breed, and has sent me the first

pair he had to spare ; he thinks there are now only two males in England. My female is with young. My lesser sort, *m. bennettii*, have multiplied to eight, besides four in the pouch.

Lord Fitzwilliam has bred several llamas, of which he has given me a pair. My female is with young.

Two magnificent cassowaries have been here three years. They are very furious and very powerful. We have introduced them to each other, but, hitherto, they only fight.

An awful meeting of Parliament approaches. The distress of the country is dreadful ; and if, as seems generally expected, Peel adhere to his corn law of last year, I dare not anticipate the consequence.

Was the war in Affghanistan necessary ? I think it was rendered necessary by the grasping ambition of Russia, and their evidently tampering with the native powers. We have now given to the latter such proof of our irresistible power, that they will not be tempted lightly to contend against it. Yet, why should we insult them, and create hostile feelings by unnecessary violence, by destroying their towns and villages, when there was no longer any resistance ? Thus it is we create enmity. We

chose to be the goalers of Bonaparte, and exercised the office with vulgar insult. It was *our* soldiers who carried off the works of art from Paris; it was *our* army that occupied France after the peace; and *we* destroyed the public buildings in America.

Surely no man can doubt the necessity of the Chinese war. We had too long submitted to the injustice and insults of that nation, and the event has shown that to resist was to succeed. The treaty must give great advantages to this country. It is true, the Chinese government is perfidious enough to disavow all their engagements; but then it is evident they have no army to employ against us, the whole being hardly sufficient to keep down their discontented population, who detest the Tartar dynasty now reigning; and another war would probably increase this discontent into open insurrection.

On the 22nd November last, my wife, in reading a letter, set her clothes on fire. She rang the bell violently, and saved herself by her presence of mind. I heard the screams of the servants, but the library where I sat is so far from her dressing room, that my arrival would have been too late. Assistance was prompt, but her neck and throat were so much

burned, that now, on the 7th of February, the wounds are still unhealed, and she has endured much pain from the necessary treatment.

It is the general opinion, that Peel does not intend to persevere in his corn laws. He asked the Duke of Cleveland to move the address. He was willing if Peel would pledge himself to support the corn laws. Peel refused. It seems he is determined to support Lord Ellenborough, which appears to me more bold than wise.

Died Lord Cathcart. This martinet of the
 June, school of Mack, was thought an able
 1843. General. He was entrusted with the expedition to Copenhagen. As that expedition was covered by the ostensible object of defending Stralsund, the clerk, not in the secret, drew up the commission for the Continent of Europe. A man of judgment and decision would have done his duty and depended on the certainty of parliamentary indemnity ; not so Lord Cathcart, who, though he fought battles would not punish offences ; the army therefore, fell into such complete disorganization, that the Princess Frederica being at dinner within our lines, where she resided under British honor, the sergeant appointed for her guard marched with his men into her

room, and robbed her of the plate upon her table.

The army had first debarked at Stralsund, and then, to maintain the delusion, they bought one thousand horses of the Prince of Putbus, at twenty pounds per horse. When they came away, they wished to take the horses with them, but they were wild in a park in the Isle of Rugen ; so horses and money were left, probably for the French. The fleet was commanded by Gambier, who was likewise the negotiator. His bigotry led him to refuse to negotiate on a Sunday, and on that day a battle was fought, in which the lives of many hundreds of the peasantry were thus uselessly sacrificed. For these services, they both received peerages. Gambier afterwards had a quarrel with Admiral Sir Eliab Hervey, who called him a canting son of a b— ; for which, being brought to a court martial, he was necessarily broke, but restored next day by the King.

The manufacturing of fraudulent or fictitious votes, had been practised largely in Rutland, and in the smaller counties of Wales ; but in Scotland it had been carried to such excess, as to outnumber the legitimate voters ; who, in several counties, found themselves

swamped by men who had no connection with the district, except by nominal qualifications, which they had never seen, and for which they had never paid. It appeared to me, that the only remedy for the evil was to enact, that, at a general election no man should vote for more than one place. Accordingly I drew up a bill for that object, and in the last Session gave notice of a motion for leave to bring it in ; but so little interest could such a subject at that time excite, that, after consulting Horseman, who had taken much pains on the subject, and other friends, I unwillingly postponed it, and shall, probably, do the same, in the approaching Session.

A railroad having been projected from Peterborough to Blisworth, my constituents became exceedingly anxious to promote it, and called upon me to exert myself in its favor. It was principally opposed by Lord Fitzwilliam, with great eagerness. The committee, after a long examination of evidence, reported in its favor. In the House of Commons it was carried by a small majority, chiefly by the Irish Members, who, having no interest in it, kindly remembered that I had always been desirous of promoting the prosperity of their country, and supported my view of the subject. As the Session afford-

ed no hope of any advantage to the country, and Lady Heron was suffering from her unfortunate accident, I was very little in London.

In the Autumn, I went to Sir H. Wilmot's, to attend the great national agricultural meeting : there I heard many speeches, good and bad ; saw a quantity of greatly improved machinery ; and an immense quantity of cattle, fattened to a useless and ridiculous degree of perfection. I was afterwards called upon to preside at an agricultural meeting at Peterborough. There, after dinner, I took occasion to combat, successfully, the strong animosity which Lord Fitzwilliam had excited, by opposing the railroad ; for which I received no thanks from his Lordship, who cannot believe he had become unpopular. Had there been an election this year, he would have found it out. I hope now it will die away.

Brougham is continually asking why he was not Lord Melbourne's Chancellor. He knows well enough that Lord Melbourne had told him, most confidentially, a most important secret ; no other person was present except the late Lord Sefton, and the next morning it was in Lord Brougham's paper. The secret was the intended dissolution of Parliament.

The Session approaches. Peel is a powerful debater, displaying much ability, much cunning, and little sincerity. For government, he appears to me to have no talents ; with all his pomp and arrogance he wants even decision and courage. In Ireland, he was passive when vigor might have been salutary ; now he is over vigorous when it is useless. I do not think there was ever the slightest danger of a collision ; yet, he pours in an enormous army to insult and provoke them ; but, O'Connell, who seeks only power and money, turns all his measures against him ; and O'Connell's known want of courage increases the security from civil war. Of the repeal I have as little fear ; yet, how is Peel to deal with them ? The only important election, that of London, he has lost. No one believes in his honesty ; by the greater part of the tories he is detested ; this, however, will not hurt him, for their own interest will always lead them to prefer his government to that of the liberals. Should a war break out, there must be a new shuffling of parties, which might bring him to us.

My cassowaries having killed a kangaroo, wounded a man, and frightened every body, I sold them to the Zoological Society for forty

pounds. I bought a pair of beautiful little jerboas of E. Cross ; they are tame and doing well. My female rhea died, probably, from laying the enormous quantity of eighty-eight eggs in two years. She has left me a fine pair of young ones. The llamas have produced a young female, and the great kangaroos a young male.

The cassowaries were both females, having both laid eggs. I begin to doubt whether there ever was a male in England.

The *bettongia pencillata* have produced young ones. The *macropus major*, or great kangaroo, is rapidly diminishing in its native country, being hunted down by the dogs, which have become wild and greatly multiplied. They also became nearly extinct in this country. It is now believed there are only three males in England ; Lord Derby and I are trying to recover the breed, with what success time only can show ; at present, after mutual exchanges, we have each one male and two females.

During the present month, I have sold to Atkins, of Liverpool, the elder of the young llamas, and the three young emus, for £35 ; and bought of him a pair of splendid crown pigeons, from Batavia ; a pair of spotted dasy-

urus, from New Holland ; a pair of marmotes, from Canada, and a pair of small nondescript doves, from Brazil, for £29 10. The betton-gias have produced another young one.

When our divines were obliged to acknowledge the truth of the discoveries of Cuvier, that this globe had had several series of inhabitants, of which, man was probably the last, finding that those facts could not be brought to agree with the received opinions founded on the Mosaic account of the creation, they made a new interpretation of that account, and gave out, that what were before understood to be days are, in truth, periods. What then becomes of the seventh day. Is that a day, or a period ?

Death of Lord Abinger. A more unprincipled man I have rarely known ; nor

March,
1844.

did he appear to me a man of ability.

He certainly had a talent for imposing upon a jury, but, in conversation, he was a heavy egotist. He failed as a speaker in both Houses of Parliament, made a bad figure at an election, and was considered a bad judge.

My old friend, Clive, in February, became so ill, that neither physicians, nor his family, entertained the slightest hopes of his recovery. To the delight of his friends, he is recovered,

and I hope will live at least as long as myself, being two years younger. In London, died of a most painful complaint, the Rev. Mr. Church, a highly valued though newly acquired friend, and the best Magistrate on our bench. My wife had not entirely recovered from the accident by fire, which occurred sixteen months past, when, last week, she fell in getting out of her carriage, and slightly fractured the hip bone. I shall, therefore, be little in Parliament during the remainder of the Session.

The great want of employment for the labouring class, increasing the burthen of the poor rates, makes the new poor law unpopular with those who little consider how infinitely greater would have been the grievance under the old system. For the last two years, my board had got worse and worse ; but this year, when I expected a continued progress in the same direction, I find the most violent and troublesome guardians removed ; many respectable men sent by their parishes ; and the board altogether such as I could have wished.

Fear is the chief support of bigotry and credulity. I have heard sensible men urge, that if we believe erroneously no mischief can come, but if we disbelieve, and are wrong, how great

may be our danger. What a libel upon the supreme Being, to suppose him capable of punishing his creature, for the honest and disinterested use of his reason.

Went to see my old friend Lord Derby :
 August. found him cheerful, but not so well
 as I had hoped ; very anxious about
 his menagerie which he had greatly increased ;
 it contains, perhaps, the largest collection in
 the world. Mine, too, is much enlarged,
 though bearing no proportion to his. I have
 been, probably, more fortunate in breeding than
 he. Amongst other articles of increase, I
 have bred and reared a pair of jerboas. I have
 never heard of any others produced in Europe.

Parliament is, at length, on the point of
 adjourning. Ministers have been little dis-
 turbed by opposition, and we have more reason
 to be satisfied with their measures than the
 tories. Peel has promised to bring forward,
 next Session, measures in favor of the cath-
 olics in Ireland, such as Lord Melbourne
 would never have been suffered to propose.
 It was scarcely noticed by the tories, who,
 probably, reserve their unavailing indignation
 for the time of action. I was put on the Gil-
 bert act poor law committee, but finding the
 opponents determined to waste time, and pre-

vent a report, I left London, and, at length, the members ceased to attend.

The circumstances attending the death of the Duke of Bourbon, have not been generally known ; probably owing to the interest Louis Phillippe had in preventing, as far as was in his power, their being publicly exposed. There were several Englishmen in the house at the time, and amongst them a friend of mine, of the most unimpeachable veracity, from whom I received the following statement. The Duke was on the eve of following Charles X to England, from a feeling of dutiful submission to the head of his family, but by no means concurring with him in his political conduct. On the morning of his death he had quarrelled with his mistress, Madame Feuchieres, and received a black eye, with which he appeared at dinner. In the mean time, it was known that he had sent for his confidential lawyer, who resided about forty miles off, to alter his will, and the lawyer was expected next day. He had two valets de chambre, one of them greatly in his confidence ; the other in the interest of Madame F. He said to his favorite, " You must sleep to night in my ante-chamber." " No," said the valet, " It is Monsieur . . . turn, and it would create an uproar." " Then,"

said the Duke, "They will murder me in the night." In the morning, he was found dead, hanging to the rod of a curtain, which could not have been done by himself, as he had scarcely the use of his arms. The King had intrigued with Madame F., by means of which, he had succeeded in obtaining half the property of the Duke for his family; and, to avoid the publication of his correspondence with her, he found means to procure her acquittal.

In the British Gallery, are the two *chef d'œuvres* of Claude Lorraine, formerly in the gallery of the Prince Doria. Day, a collector of pictures for some of our nobility, went to the Prince and told him, that as Bonaparte was approaching, he would certainly insist on the possession of those pictures. "Then," said the Prince, "What is to be done?" "You must sell them nominally to me," said Day, "and they will then be safe." Safe enough they were, for Day sold them for £7000, to the British Gallery. This anecdote was told me by Lord Mounteagle, one of the managers. I must say, it is little to the credit of my country that they have not been restored to the Prince; neither appears to me much more honorable, the retention of the King of Spain's pictures, taken in the baggage of King Joseph. I have

heard it said, they were offered to him ; if true, I do not think an offer was sufficient.

When Lord Grey resigned his office, I believe he fully relied on being solicited by his colleagues, to return with greater influence. Disappointed in this, he has never given them support, and has gradually abandoned the principles on which his great name was founded.

The Session of Parliament has ended with little satisfaction to any party. Peel has promised great boons to the catholics, which will, probably, greatly disgust the bigots of his party. The next Session must be an exciting one ; Peel will not find it an easy task to defend the conduct of Lord Ellenborough, though he may, perhaps, be glad to make that his principal field of battle, to avoid still more difficult subjects. As the Duke of Wellington can no longer rely either upon his temper, or his memory, Lord Stanley is called to the House of Lords, to manage the debates there ; and Peel, I suspect, will not at all regret his absence from the lower House.

There was a very general opinion, that O'Connell and his associates had not had a fair trial. The crown lawyers certainly showed a violent party zeal ; and after the illegal formation of the jury was discovered, (even if

accidental,) disinterested men thought the trial ought not to have proceeded. An appeal was made to the House of Lords. The Chancellor put the question, "That the sentence be confirmed," and a large majority said, "Content." Lord Wharncliffe then advised, that all the Lords, except the law Lords, should retire. The question was again put; the sentence was reversed by three to two. I cannot imagine that this bold course was pursued by the friend of Peel, otherwise than in concurrence with his wish, to get out of the very awkward predicament in which the trial had left him. It is, however, attended with this inconvenience, that it seems to leave all legal business for the future in the hands of the law Lords, and renders an appeal to the Peers nugatory; or, which is most likely, the Peers will, in future, refuse to abide by the precedent.

Admiral Fleming was intimately acquainted with a relation of the Duke of Medina Celi, settled in South America. He told me, that on leaving that Court, he asked this person if he had any commands for Spain, then under the power of Napoleon. "Yes," said his friend, "I believe my relations are in much need of assistance." He accordingly entrusted him with two boxes, which, besides curiosities, were found to contain about £30,000.

The Duke of Norfolk, last but one, told me, that the man of most ancient, noble birth, in this country, was Sir G. Mannock, who could prove his descent from a Danish Nobleman before the time of Canute. Sir G. Mannock was, I believe, the last of his family : he was a Jesuit priest, and killed about thirty years ago, on the Dover road, by being overturned in a stage coach.

In the Autumn, I paid a visit of a week
 each to my old friends, Lord Derby
 January, 1845. and E. B. Clive ; and had the satisfaction to find both in as good health as I could expect, and the time passed most agreeably.

I purchased last year, of Mr. Cooke, of Yorkshire, three alpacas. As I learned afterwards that he had lost two, and these looked very ill, I feared it must prove a bad speculation ; they, however, completely recovered, and have, in the Autumn, produced a pair of young ones.

Lord Palmerston, just before he resigned, placed Lady Heron's nephew, H. Mann, in the Foreign Office. He has given so much satisfaction, that Lord Aberdeen has appointed him third attaché to the Persian Embassy. He goes out with the most ample recommendation and advice, particularly from Sir Har-

ford Jones Bridges, and Mr. Mahon. Sheil, also, has strongly recommended him to his brother, the Ambassador. Yet, it required all my influence to prevent his family from inducing him to reject all this uncommon good fortune. They talked of the sacrifice, as if every soldier and sailor did not make greater every day ; and other nonsense, too foolish to be quoted.

Death of Earl Grey. He ought to have died ten years ago ; history would then have recorded him as an illustrious and consistent patriot.

The Session verges to a close. Peel has seen the necessity of yielding some tardy and insufficient justice to the catholics of Ireland, which will, probably, be followed by greater sacrifices. It has, apparently, given little satisfaction to the catholics, and has greatly alienated his bigoted friends. He has, himself, openly declared in Parliament, that he has lost the confidence of one party, without gaining that of their opponents. What are his views ? Many think he is heartily tired of his situation, and will retire from it the first opportunity. I can hardly believe in his voluntary resignation of power, and he may safely rely on the support of the tories, for their

own sakes, however loudly they may proclaim their dislike of him, and of his liberal measures.

I have lost the last of my cotemporaries, my old and valued friend, E. B. Clive. Between us there was always a great agreement in opinions, moral, political, and religious. Already broken in constitution, he could not recover the death of his son, who devoted himself to the comfort of his father. It is a source of consolation to me, that I passed some time with him last Autumn, in Herefordshire, and that he was gratified by my visit.

I passed the last week with an old but not quite so ancient a friend, Lord Derby, and found him in health; and in the enjoyment of, probably, the most extensive menagerie in the world. By a severe paralytic attack, some years ago, he has irretrievably lost the use of his legs; but his perfect temper preserves all else entire.

The Session is at last concluded: it has entertained 217 projects of railways; and 118 have received the royal assent.

I think the two most consistent patriots in the French revolution, were La Fayette and Carnot: the last, perhaps, next to Napoleon, the most able; the first, far the most amiable. He would have preserved the life and liberty

of the King had the Queen confided in him, but she bore him an inveterate hatred ; for this there was no apparent reason, unless his determined opposition to despotism.

Dec. 1845. Considering that I have completed my 80th year, I have as little cause of complaint as most men of that age, still enjoying much of health, activity, and comfort. My infancy was almost hopelessly feeble. My mother, a most superior woman, deeply beloved by all the family, and adored by my father, died in childbed when I was one year old. When I was about three or four, Mary Paske came to my father, as housekeeper. She was a kind hearted and sensible woman, and was to me all but a mother. On my father's second marriage, she was dismissed, not very generously : she lived to a great age, and it is a source of great consolation to me, that I was able to make her comfortably at ease during the latter part of her life. At eight years old, I was sent for education to the Rev. John Skynner's, near Stamford. Mr. Skynner was not a man of deep erudition, but had a talent for composing elegantly in latin. When the Minister, Newcastle, was installed as Chancellor of Cambridge, Skynner, then public orator, pleased him so much, that he was thought on

the point of attaining a mitre ; when, unfortunately, he signed a petition against the Thirty-nine Articles, and lost all chance of preferment. He then went as tutor to some of the Noels, and in that amiable family acquired, if he did not possess them before, the manners of a perfect gentleman. Either from a sense of honor, or not being smitten with the lady, he informed the Earl of Gainsborough that his daughter Elizabeth had fallen in love with him ; and he was obliged to quit a situation, in which he was highly esteemed. He was honorable and good natured in intention, but peevish and partial, and by no means expert in communicating knowledge. His sentiments were liberal till latterly, when he became timid both in politics and religion. I was unfortunate in my companions, Chaplin, Lord St. John, and his brother St. Andrew, being much older, and the Thorolds much younger, than myself.

With all these, however, I preserved through their lives a great intimacy. Having little to do but to read, I laid in a stock of desultory knowledge, which has been, by the help of a good memory, highly useful to me through life. At eighteen, I went to St. John's College, Cambridge. At that time, nothing was thought of at the Universities but drinking. I never

was fond of this, but being fond of society, I necessarily fell into it. The fellow commoners were by no means a good set when I went there, but soon greatly improved; amongst others came Lord Mountstuart, father of the present Lord Bute; with him I formed a great intimacy. He had good abilities, good judgment, and great prospects, with much assiduity; and he could not have failed attaining an eminent situation, but he died at an early age by a fall from his horse. I had agreed to go abroad with the second Marquess of Bath, but my father hearing that he was somewhat addicted to drinking, would not let me go. Sir Richard Heron consulted the present Lord Harrowby, who had just left Cambridge, for a tutor for me. He could not entirely recommend any, but, on the whole, preferred Mr. Pedley, afterwards Deverel. He had some learning and much ignorance, but being a little mad, his strange ideas taught me to think for myself. We spent two Summers together in France, Germany, and Holland. I then came home, and not having an opportunity of getting into Parliament, was conscious of my life being, at that time, miserably wasted.

The present House of Commons may, pos-

sibly, be more honest, but it is, certainly, far more vulgar; and the "*sacra fames fandi*" makes it almost impossible for any man to obtain a hearing, without much assurance, or an imposing authority. At the end of my first long parliament, I offered myself for my county; but, with a decided majority, was beaten by our own bad management, and the foolish idea that we could succeed without paid agents. Immediately afterwards, I was offered a seat for Peterborough, which I have ever since occupied: not without repeated contests, but in perfect harmony with my constituents. This, however, is my last parliament, as it would be absurd to offer myself at my present age to any electors.

I asked a Physician to dine at Stubton: he declined. He said, the only time he had slept out he lost a fee. I thought this the vulgarist expression I ever heard. "I disappointed a patient," would have been synonymous and gentleman-like.

Sir F. Flood, in the House of Commons, said, "You ought to be good to Ireland, you are sister islands, you swim in the same sea." He might have said, "Be kind to Ireland, and the sea which now divides, will then unite the islands."

When I was Sheriff, a sermon was preached before the Judges, which made considerable sensation. The Dean, Gordon, a violent politician, with little learning or judgment, told his friends, in the reading room, that the Chaplain, E. Fane, had given his principal a pretty severe lecture on his infernal politics. The sermon was mine.

Lady Elizabeth Luttrell resided with her sister, the Duchess of Cumberland, played high, and cheated much. She was commonly called, the Princess Elizabeth. On the death of her sister, she was thrown into goal. There she gave a hairdresser £50. to marry her: her debts then becoming his, she was discharged. She went abroad, where she descended lower and lower; till, being convicted of picking pockets at Augsburg, she was condemned to clean the streets, chained to a wheelbarrow: in that miserable situation she terminated her existence by poison.

At the end of the year, we were surprised
1846. by the resignation of Ministers. The

Queen sent for Lord John Russell, and it appears to me rather unfortunate that he undertook to form an Administration, which, I think, could not have survived the dissolution to which he must speedily have resorted.

When Lord Grey refused to concur in Lord Palmerston being Secretary for the foreign department, that difficulty, added to so many others, was considered fatal ; and it is, therefore, announced to the public, that the whigs are incapable of forming an Administration. I believe the ultra supporters of corn protection would have attempted to govern the country, if they could have found any man whom they could have believed capable of leading the House of Commons. Peel knew this was impossible, and, probably, resigned, to convince the country it could only be governed by himself. So far he has succeeded, but his task may not be easy. He will carry his corn question by our assistance ; but that carried, the bond by which he held the agriculturists is dissolved. I do not think he has the courage necessary to govern Ireland, where he has already wavered. In the mean time, he has placed his devoted followers in an awkward situation. Many of them will forfeit their strong pledges to their constituents, by voting with him for the repeal of the corn laws ; and no small number will, probably, lose their seats, whenever Parliament is dissolved. All this is now speculation ; the approaching Session will be most interesting. Peel, like Pitt,

delights in feeble colleagues ; but with this difference, Vansittart, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, by his ignorance and presumption, did infinite mischief to the country. Goulbourn, not a whit more able, is perfectly inoffensive, because not entrusted with any functions ; Peel, who certainly understands finance, executing the office himself ; yet, in thirty-two years of peace, not an attempt has been made to diminish the enormous debt, which paralyses our domestic exertions, and our foreign policy. We have often been near a war, and cannot hope always to remain at peace ; yet, no rational man can believe, that after a serious war we can attempt to maintain what is called our fidelity to our creditors. Still, money is lavished on every occasion, whether to abolish slavery, which might have been done at a far less expense, or to feed the Irish, both those who want and those who want not.

Hitherto we had heard of nothing but the immense gains of those who had speculated on railroads. The reaction has now begun, and many have been ruined. I am one of the few Members of Parliament who have never had a single share in them ; I shall, therefore, incur no risk. But, if the London

and York should be carried, I shall derive considerable pecuniary advantage, in the great reduction of the price of my coals, and increase of the rent of my great Claypole water mill, now of little value.

It seems that Peel is now sincere, and perseveres in his free-trade measures with courage and determination. For success, however, he relies on us, his opponents; yet, it is true, that Lord Melbourne could never have succeeded; for even if Peel had honestly supported him, he could not have prevailed with his followers, until they saw that he had pledged his power to its success. The agricultural population still oppose these measures with fanatical bigotry. In Nottinghamshire, Lord Lincoln, appointed Secretary for Ireland, loses his re-election by an immense majority. Considering the corn laws as the only principle at issue, at this election, I voted for Lord Lincoln. In other counties, men who had pledged themselves to support the corn laws, thought themselves bound to appeal to the opinions of their constituents; particularly as a general election appeared near; and were every where ejected. Rous, Member for Westminster, made a Lord of the Treasury, was beaten by a liberal. There he and Peel expected a triumph.

The free constitution of this country owes nothing to the people. Many of our worst tyrants were popular with them. George III., with the aid of his apostate Minister, seemed at one time likely to succeed in his aspirations after despotism ; but, fortunately, he was himself without abilities, and was encountered by many who possessed splendid talents. The French revolution created great alarm in this country, and reform with us seemed hopeless ; when, from some unaccountable state of the public mind, an immense effect was produced upon it by a cause apparently inadequate,—the revolution which dethroned Charles X. of France ; and from that moment, reform of Parliament was certain. To us old fashioned gentlemen, reform has made the House of Commons far less agreeable, by introducing into it a number of men of inferior caste ; many of them ill-informed, but eternal and tedious chatterers. Still, reform has been a great victory to the public. The people are really represented, and their House is far more honest than before ; unfortunately, bribery still prevails : I think it might be checked by the ballot. Another inconvenience may hereafter be felt. The House of Commons is become so much more powerful since reform,

that on any question popular with the public, it might be found impossible for the King and Lords together, to offer more than a temporary veto ; yet, still by delay giving time for reconsideration, and for a factitious cry to fall away. But it cannot be denied, that the virtual appointment of Ministers, and the complexion of their Administration, depends now on the House of Commons ; and the only mode of checking democracy must be, for the aristocracy to obtain a reasonable share of the seats,—a remedy which seems never likely to be wanting.

Peel, apparently tired of ruling by the clemency of his opponents, persevered
August, 1846. in his Irish coercion bill, was beaten by a large majority, and resigned. His speech, on resigning, unlike the simple announcement of the Duke of Wellington, in the House of Lords, lasted an hour and ten minutes, and seemed in part to be suggested at the moment ; was delivered with some hesitation ; charged with selfishness and upbraidings of his former supporters ; offered, as I thought, the expectation of his being the bitter opponent of any successor ; and finished with an eulogy ridiculously exaggerated of Cobden, whom he had formerly as violently abused.

Lord John Russell has formed a good Cabinet, and it is not his fault if it is an exclusive one ; but, I think, many former opponents, tired of the constant changes, and no longer reposing confidence in Peel, are inclined to give him support. If he dissolve Parliament this Autumn, I think he will obtain a good one ; but if he delay another year, I shall fear the return of the greater part of the tories and protectionists, for their own interests, to Peel. One thing is clear, in this most intolerant country ; any Minister, who attempts perfect justice to the Irish and their religion, will be defeated. It will be, therefore, unwise for Lord John to attempt what can have no other result, than the ruin of his Administration.

In going up to assist in the death of Peel, I nearly accomplished my own. I had a most painful and dangerous attack of retention, which was aggravated by leaving London too soon, contrary to the advice of Brodie. After three weeks suffering, the complaint is now subdued. My first attack of this kind was in the year 1794, in consequence of catching cold with the mumps, for which I had taken James' powder. From the ignorance of the Kentish members of the faculty, I nearly lost my life ; and was several years in recovering.

I had no return till 1844, when I was immediately and effectually relieved by Brodie. My wife was very unwilling to leave me, but I thought it necessary for her health she should go to the sea ; besides, I was recovering, and many kind friends offering to come to me, in succession, I was in no danger of solitude.

In consequence of my illness, I was unable to return to London ; and have, therefore, paired off for the rest of the Session. Excepting the sugar duties, I have lost no question of importance ; indeed, the Session is on the eve of its close : it will long be remembered for the great benefits it has conferred upon the country by the repeal of the corn laws, and the new tariff, constructed on the principles of free-trade.

On the 10th March, this year, there was a sudden frost. The thermometer ten degrees (fahrenheit) below the freezing point. The consequence was, the loss of almost all the wall fruit, a circumstance which has never occurred to me before. A more serious evil is, the extraordinary disease amongst the potatoes, which commenced last year, and is much increased during the present. It is universal, and extends even to America, their original locality. It is impossible to account for it.

On the 13th of this month, a most affection-
 ate union, of fifty-five years, was
 terminated by my having the mis-
 fortune to survive my wife. She had had
 severe attacks of cholera, but it became im-
 possible to save her from the debility which it
 left behind. She bore a month of suffering
 with calmness, resignation, and, when without
 pain, with cheerfulness. She was sensible to
 the last, and thought of every thing and every
 body with anxious benevolence. She com-
 municated all her wishes to me, and expired
 without a struggle. I could not *follow* the
 funeral, but was present in the church, and at
 the grave. The exertion was *very severe*, but
 somewhat mitigated by the respectful silence,
 the perfect propriety, and evidently intense
 feeling of all assembled. I am further grati-
 fied by the great and just testimony I receive
 from all quarters, of her unsullied virtues and
 most amiable qualities.

I was at one time terrified lest her very bad
 health, and the spasms, to which she was
 occasionally subject, should impair her faculties;
 certainly they did affect her memory, which
 she very much assisted by taking notes, but
 they never injured her understanding, or di-
 minished her perfect good temper. Her judg-

ment, always good, was improved latterly by justly increased confidence in herself.

It is a consolation to me to execute all her wishes ; and I will not omit that of exerting myself to make the best of my melancholy situation. In this, I am assisted by my friends, who seldom leave me alone. I have begun to resume my attendance at the Petty Sessions and Board of Guardians ; and, in a few days, shall endeavour to find relief in the business of Parliament. How will the society of London suit me ? I know not, but must try.

George Nevile is returned from Jamaica, having hastened home on the news of the alarming illness of my wife. He was brought up in this house, to which, and its inhabitants, particularly the one he has lost, he appeared deeply and sincerely attached. His wife, so far, seems an agreeable and well disposed woman. I have been pressed much to go to London this week, to vote against Lord G. Bentinck's motion, for expending twenty-four millions on railroads, in Ireland ; but I cannot anticipate danger of so foolish a proposition being carried. I shall go on Monday, to support Roebuck's motion for imposing the income tax on Ireland. I see no reason why thirteen

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millions of rent should not contribute to our necessities, particularly now that we are contributing such enormous sums to the starving population of Ireland. Much of this money is shamefully squandered, and grossly misapplied ; this, however, could neither be foreseen nor prevented by Ministers. If at all to blame, it is for not foreseeing the misery which the total failure of the potatoe crop must occasion. When it occurred, and the Irish were dying in heaps, there could be no hesitation or delay ; and they could not anticipate the reckless manner in which the Irish will prefer the most wretched existence in idleness, to well paid labor. In the mean time, England and Scotland swarm with them ; in Liverpool, alone, it is said, there are more than 30,000. It is now proposed to bring in an Irish poor law, nearly assimilated to that of England. I believe the most important clauses will be obstinately opposed by the Irish. I shall go up on the 8th to support it. The object is, to make the Irish support their own poor ; for the system in which they are now maintained, would ruin the empire. The great Agitator is dying, and may already be considered as politically dead : he was once useful to Ireland, but can now *well* be spared. Ireland has ever

been, and long will be, the great cause of embarrassment to all Ministers. It is true, it has never had justice ; but I doubt whether even justice would have long procured tranquillity. On this terrible affliction of famine, they have more than justice. I am much disposed to believe, that it would have been better, both for England and Ireland, and even for the destitute poor, to have left that country to support its own poor, had such a course been possible ; but it certainly was not. No Minister could dare to try the experiment ; for, as numbers would still have perished, their deaths would have been ascribed to our *cold selfishness*. I am not without hopes, that the principal cause of the famine, the disease in the potatoes, is at an end. I incline to think, they perished from some extraordinary and sudden state of the atmosphere ; at least, I have met with no other conjecture so well supported. Many think we ought no longer to rely on potatoes ; but, as you must go back one hundred years for a similar failure in the crop, it is, perhaps, as safe to trust that article as any other. This would not be my opinion if the disease should be found still to continue.

The country has suffered a great loss by the death of Lord Besborough, Lord Lieutenant

of Ireland : a most excellent man of business, always exercising a sound judgment. Before he went, he said, he should try a new method of dealing with D. O'Connell ; accordingly he gave good appointments to a son, a nephew, and the Physician of O'Connell. May not this partly account for the journey to Rome, especially as the newspapers state that his health is amending.

The state of the country is now alarming. Corn and food of all kinds at a great and increasing price, with danger of an utter failure in quantity ; and the scarcity being universal in Europe, there is no hope of relief till the harvest, now distant. The Winter has been long and severe ; but, though every thing is unusually late, there is every prospect of future abundance. In the mean time, the Irish, starving at home, are pouring into this country, and bringing with them contagious diseases : add to all this, the disturbed state of the money market, which appears to have affected commerce in all its branches. It is, no doubt, caused by the immense sums sent abroad, in exchange for corn ; added to the enormous speculations in railways, which have been left uncontrolled by all our Ministers. Meanwhile, the dissolution of Parliament approaches.

I believe there will be few contests of importance. The tories have no leader ; and many objects of dispute being now at an end, many of them will, probably, be found amongst the supporters of the present Government. In South Lincolnshire, we had a candidate ready, but an important friend of mine was alarmed at his not being a resident ; and, contrary to my opinion, he was advised to decline ; and I know of no probable contest where I have any interest. I expect the returns to be considerably in favor of the present Government.

Brougham, in his *Sketches of Statesmen*, and particularly in his treatise on parties, immediately after his life of Romilly, seems scarcely to believe in the sincere patriotism of any public man. Probably he derives his opinion from his own breast.

I do not think the exaggerated reputation of Walter Scott, can be maintained with posterity. His poems are certainly beautiful ; his histories below contempt. His novels are amusing, some of them well written, but on a false principle : the mixture of history and fiction is, in my opinion, unsatisfactory and mischievous ; besides, I cannot imagine that any Novel can be very highly estimated by a future generation, unless, indeed, one written

with such extraordinary truth and pathos as C. Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.

O'Connell is dead, abroad. His rent was nearly dead before him. He was not mercenary, and I doubt not will be found to have died poor: he can have no successor.

In the last war with America, a regiment of Slaves was raised and officered by Europeans. Near the end of the war, they were disbanded and located in our Islands, principally at Trinidad. At the peace, one of the articles was, that they should be given up. A ship of war was sent to collect them, they were seized, and actually surrendered, to the eternal infamy of the Government of that day; yet, it has never been mentioned in Parliament, and is scarcely known. This anecdote was related to me by Admiral Codrington, who was the officer employed to collect the slaves.

The Parliament is dissolved. In my eighty-
August, 1847. second year, I thought it became me to retire, and I have done so. My friends, however, seem to think I am never to grow old; and some of them are surprised at my not remaining in the Senate. I announced my intention when I was in great distress from the illness of my wife, and was desirous

of remaining at home with her. My successor was selected, and I could no longer disturb the arrangement, if so inclined. Lord Fitzwilliam, however, asked me to take the seat at Malton, (expected to be vacated by Childers, who stood for East Retford) till his son Charles was ready for it, probably, two Sessions. I could not refuse what was evidently an accommodation to the family; and, besides, was no longer averse to the project,* as Lord Fitzwilliam, with the most kind and friendly attention, had taken measures to save me the annoyance of the canvass; but Childers seems at last to have preferred the quiet seat, to the battle at East Retford.

My friend, G. H. Packe, was invited to Newark. I did not advise his standing, but they would have him, and I then made every exertion in my power for him. The feeling was all with us, promises abounded, but the night before the election the enemy were very busy, and some promises were broken, declaring they were waiting for money. We refused to bribe, and were beaten. The defeat, however, was mainly to be ascribed to Packe's indecision,—three days before the election, he left Newark, refusing to be a candidate.

* In consequence of my now lonely condition.

We are losing many elections for want of candidates ; perhaps our opponents are in the same situation. In this county, Lord Burleigh waited long before he ventured to offer himself ; and Sir J. Trollope would, probably, not have encountered a serious opposition. In concert with Lord Fitzwilliam and Lord Carrington, I did all in my power to obtain a candidate, but no fit man would come forward. In Northamptonshire, it is much the same ; still, the elections, so far, are going on favorably. The cry of bigotry makes no impression, and what is mis-named protection, seems to have no effect in the towns, though much in the counties : but the latter have been so much against us, that almost every change must be in our favor.

I consider toleration as the first of charities ; the want of it, the arrogance of man who says, “ I am right and all who differ from me are wrong,” has occasioned almost all the miseries to which humanity has been subject from time immemorial. In my opinion, in politics and religion, all who are sincere are right.

When Charles the Xth. and his Minister, the Prince de Polignac, had resolved on the famous coup d'état of the 30th of July, 30,000 men were assembled in two divisions under

Marmont, within two days' march of Paris. When the ordinance was published, Marmont attended the Council. When asked what troops he had brought with him, he answered, none, but that with two days' notice he could have brought his army, which was in readiness. Polignac said he had had his orders. Marmont declared he had received none. The Prince, who was occasionally subject to absence of mind, afterwards found, in his own pocket, the letter which contained the order. On such an accident depended the fate of a dynasty.

During this month, I went to Wentworth, in my way to Scotland. From some September, 1846. predisposition, the railroad occasioned a dizziness of the head and eyes, which came upon me in the evening and lasted about an hour. I had been six times to London, in the Session, by the same conveyance, without its producing the same effect. I did not think it prudent to proceed on a journey of two days, and, after spending a week very agreeably with my friends at Wentworth, I returned home.

A new Pope has most unexpectedly, and contrary to all precedent, shown himself the friend of liberty and independence. He has

given liberal institutions to his subjects. His example has been followed by the Sovereigns of Sardinia and Tuscany : Lucca, in spite of its Sovereign, has done the same ; and Naples is in insurrection.

Austria, indignant and terrified, took possession of Ferrara, and appears to have relied much on a conspiracy at Rome : she appears now hesitating, and if England does her duty, the independence of Italy may be secured. Louis Phillippe would willingly support despotism, but though he will, probably, in case of war, refuse his support to the Italians, I do not think he will dare unite with Austria against them.

On this day last year, my wife appeared to
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1847. have considerably recovered. She was pleased with its being on my birth day, and was very cheerful. We entertained hopes of her recovery, and passed a happy day—it was the last ; but the recollection of it is the most pleasing that remains to me.

“Tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark
 Our coming, and look brighter when we come.”

DON JUAN.

Such *was* my enjoyment whenever I returned home.

Eleven years have passed since the Oxford

Clergy found some fault with a passage in a sermon or lecture of Dr. Hampden's, and passed a censure upon him. In these eleven years, he has preached and lectured as Regius Professor of Divinity, being appointed at the head of those who examine for orders, and apparently enjoyed universal respect. On being nominated to a Bishoprick, the whole rancour is revived, with what appears to be the fury of envy; Bishop Phillpotts, of course, taking part, wherever mischief is to be done. I cannot but rejoice at so much bigotry and malice being exposed and defeated.

Some of the Bishops are now backing out ;
 January, 1848. people will say it is because the Archbishop of Canterbury is ill. Two of them are quarrelling in the newspapers ; they have gained little credit.

When I came to reside at Stubton, I found the village of Claypole, in which I have the principal property, containing between 600 and 700 inhabitants, perhaps rather above the average in drunkenness and vice. In the course of years it grew far worse ; a band of robbers was organised, which also committed several murders, and had projected more, when I succeeded in convicting and transporting five of them. This, which occurred about eight

years ago, has put a stop to these crimes, but the drunkenness still increases ; no less than four of my tenants, in other respects respectable men, actually losing their lives by it. Two years ago, I expostulated with a farmer who was in a constant state of intoxication, and then grossly illused his family : he being a good cultivator, I told him I was able to add to his farm, but said he must quit all unless he reformed. He offered to limit himself to moderation ; I told him he could not do it, that he must avoid all fermented liquor, or nothing could be done : he had firmness to become a water drinker, has persevered, and is now an excellent and active farmer. I have persuaded another man of weight in the parish to refrain from excess, and the consequence has been, a very great apparent improvement in the parish.

Notwithstanding the virtue of the Pope, and the patriotism of the Sovereigns of Piedmont and Tuscany, which had roused the Neapolitan and other states of Italy, to seek their liberties in the field of battle ; there was every appearance that they must eventually have been crushed by the overwhelming power of Austria, when an event, little foreseen, but pregnant with consequences calculated to shake the world, entirely changed their prospects.

The citizen King of the French had never wanted inclination to become despotic, but he had now lost much of his energy of mind, as well as body. Some think he had been much governed by the counsels of his sister Adelaide, and that since her death, his conduct had been more deficient of judgment : in the mean time, the democratic party had increased in strength, and wanted only an opportunity for action ; that opportunity occurred in the King's refusal to allow a reform banquet. Determined to crush this party, he drew troops to Paris, gave the command to Bugeau, and exulted in the anticipation of success. It is generally thought that success would have been obtained, had he persevered with vigor ; but vacillating in his resolution, he dismissed his Minister, Guizot, and accepted the services of Odillon Barrot, who stipulated that the troops should not act. The national guards, not supported by the troops, sided with the people, and the soldiers soon followed them. The King's *war-like* sons showed no spirit whatever. Louis Phillippe abdicated, and though in no personal danger whatever, fled in disguise. His sons followed him, leaving their wives and families to shift for themselves. Half a dozen men then declared themselves a provisional govern-

ment, until a national assembly could be elected. The worst of these men, Ledru Rollin, was resolved to be himself the sole elector, backed by the lowest part of the populace of Paris; but the national guards and the population of the country resist his mandates, and there seems a hope that the assembly may be the real representatives of France, though some danger must arise from the necessity of their meeting at Paris. Be it as it will, the French understand so little of the principles of liberty, or government, that long must be the time before they can be settled into anything rational. In the mean time, the provisional government having little power to control the mob, all establishments are destroyed, and the country, for the present, utterly ruined. I cannot very much lament this event: the King and his sons deserve little pity. We are safer than before from war; Louis Phillippe might have wanted it as a safety valve, but now if France wage war it cannot be with us, without ships or money. The revolution has, I hope, saved Italy. I have great reliance on the good sense of the Germans, and despotism is annihilated every where but in Russia. From the unfavorable manner in which I have spoken of the French royal family, I must exempt the Duke

D'Aumale and the Prince de Joinville, who were in Algeria, offered their services to France, and behaved in a becoming manner.

From all this disturbance of almost all the nations of Europe, ours alone is, happily, likely to be exempted. The people of England and Scotland have borne want of employment, and scarcity of food, with the greatest patience; there is no very serious discontent, and those mischievous persons who have endeavored to create insurrection, have only given occasion to exhibit the loyal zeal of all ranks in defence of our institutions. How different might have been our situation, had parliamentary reform been rejected, and the monopoly of corn maintained.

There are who think, that if a prosperous republic should be established in France, a great desire might be created in this country, to imitate and adopt such a constitution. I have no such fear. I do not think the condition possible, and even if it took place, there is no sympathy for the French, or inclination towards democracy; still less for the anarchy through which we must pass to attain it. This consideration necessarily brings before our eyes, the only real danger to the country—the state of our finances; and, really, the reckless

expenditure of all our Administrations, and its sanction by all Houses of Commons, appears to me alarming and unaccountable. We have now been thirty-three years in the enjoyment of peace, and have increased rather than diminished the debt. Does any man believe that after another serious war the interest could be paid ?

Two red cheeked paroquets from Australia, laid three eggs : they were put into the nest of a linnet, who had not warmth enough to hatch them ; one had a young within two days of being hatched.

I have been rather successful in the menagerie. In the Winter, from cold, I lost several llamas and alpacas ; in future, by not shearing them, (the wool being no object,) and housing them in severe weather, I have no doubt we shall preserve them in health : I have still one male and two females of each. I have reared, during the Spring, the following valuable animals ; two nylghaus, two large kangaroos, four rheas, four cereopsis, three Orinoco geese, and one Patterson partridge, with many of less value. Last year, my nylghaus produced twins, males. I have also acquired two long-tailed lemurs, three axis deer, three roe deer, two hog deer, and many birds ; also four flying squirrels.

Sir Richard Heron had lent £10,000 to Simmon's estate in Grenada, at six per cent. After a foreign occupation and a hurricane, he was obliged to abandon the principal for an annuity of £400, for his life and mine, secured, as he believed, on English estates,. The Grenada estates are the joint property of the Hankeys, Trevelyans, and St. Johns. This Spring, I was informed that the estate was no longer productive, and the annuity could not be paid; I learned at the same time, that my security was a fiction, in fact, a fraud. Mr. Parkinson, the highly respectable solicitor of the proprietors, with whom I had had much satisfactory connection on Lord St. John's affairs, represented to them the exact circumstances of my claim upon them. They immediately declared they could not refuse what was so justly due, and the annuity continues to be paid. The loss to me would have been inconvenient.

In the last month, I paid a most agreeable
 September. visit to my friends the Fergusons at Raith, in Scotland. I remained there a fortnight, and should have visited other friends, but they had not returned home from London. It was a singular novelty to me, on returning, to breakfast at Raith and dine at

home, on the same day, at half-past eleven at night.

I was much pleased with the grandeur of the Castle, at Edinburgh, but I saw nothing else there to admire. Old dirty streets, with houses eight stories high, and new streets dull and uniform, like new streets elsewhere. Holyrood house has no beauty, except the remnant of the chapel, which ought to be restored. There is a church-like building which I was told was a monument to Walter Scott, it had the appearance of being fabricated by a confectioner, for the centre of a dessert.

The last Session of Parliament was, I believe, the longest on record, but, certainly, not the most satisfactory. Two or three men, equally factious and ignorant, occupied the time of the House of Commons with speeches of unreasonable length, and often on the least important questions; creating eternal adjournments to the great obstruction of the business of the nation. The consequence was, that many important measures were necessarily abandoned; and others hurried through without due consideration, in the last days. The evil is felt to be most serious in its consequences, yet, it is found scarcely possible to apply a remedy.

The Caffre war and the famine in Ireland created an excess of expenditure beyond income, of, I believe, full three millions. For this, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to provide, by increasing the income tax to five per cent; but finding a considerable opposition to it, he weakly gave it up, and suffered the debt to be by so much increased. What will be done in the next Session? Unless the deficit be vigorously met, the consequences are frightful to contemplate.

The coalition Administration proposed four Dukes to the King—Derby, Bury—Guildford, Kent—Hertford—and Stafford; they were all refused. Peel, in his last Administration, set a good example, creating no Peers, excepting two for military services, and Lord Ellesmere. It would be well if Lord John Russell had followed his example.

I see no reason why I should retain tenants, who neither cultivate their land properly, nor give sufficient employment to our laborers. I have accordingly dismissed four, and having many applications, hope to be able to select good successors. A number of poor cottages belonging to the parish are a receptacle of vice, filth, and misery; several generations heaped into a single room; and the children, who

might be redeemed, living with the worthless, in the most indecent state of society. I proposed to purchase the houses; this the parish declines, but agrees to act according to my views, which will fully answer my object. The system of vagrancy had become a serious evil, it was a fraudulent trade. Following the example of the Sleaford and Grantham unions, I proposed to refer all vagrants to the chief of police, at Newark; this is adopted, and I have reason to believe it will entirely remedy the nuisance: they cannot bear being searched, still less cleaned.

The country has lost two valuable servants.

December.

C. Buller executed his office judiciously and satisfactorily. Lord Auckland had three qualities, very desirable in the first Lord of the Admiralty, honesty, industry, and impartiality.

The duration of Parliaments was increased by the Legislature from three to seven years, to prevent the danger of a jacobite House of Commons being returned by the people, at the then ensuing general election. The prevalent fear of such an event shews, that a great majority of the people were desirous of it; the measure, therefore, was, abstractedly considered, unjust and revolutionary. The House of Commons

could have no right to prolong the power which had been delegated to them for a limited period ; but it was absolutely necessary to prevent, by a revolutionary measure, the mischief which might have resulted from the temporary madness of the people : the injustice consisted in going beyond the necessity ; the remedy, like the danger, ought to have been only temporary. Now, however, that septennial elections have been so long acquiesced in, and the people have gained so much additional power by the reform of the House of Commons, I do not see any advantage in shortening their duration.

In my first visit to Knowsley, I met George
February, 1849. Heron, the son of a distinguished
 General ; himself highly respected.

I was attracted by his agreeable manners, we became mutually attached to each other, and his friendship and society have contributed greatly to my comfort.

It is impossible to speculate, with any probable accuracy, on the political conduct of the French nation ; they seem, in fact, to have no political principle. A few months ago, they proclaimed their determination to support all revolutions ; now they are themselves become monarchial, and will not even assist Italian independence. The empire of Austria,

which, a short time ago, was in the greatest danger, is now reconquering all her insurgent provinces. From the information which has reached me, I believe the following to be the history of what has lately occurred. The late Emperor, a weak man, had given his consent to the liberal institutions in Italy and Hungary, which destroyed his power. When circumstances began to wear a more favorable appearance towards the royal power, the family and government wished to get rid of these inconvenient concessions ; but, as Ferdinand was remarkable for never forfeiting his word, the only resource was to induce him to abdicate ; this done, the work is rapidly progressing under a vigorous Emperor, and two very able Generals.

My school at Claypole proving very ineffective, I determined to institute one there for my four parishes, on a plan of my own, and to spare no expense in procuring the best teachers. I did not desire any pecuniary assistance, but could not refuse the liberal subscription of £30 per annum from the Rector ; and I have the cordial personal assistance of the excellent resident Curate, Mr. Ward. I had some difficulty, however, with the Rector, who wished to make the school ultra religious ;

and as I had, rather unwisely, taken a master at the recommendation of him and the Curate, he was willing to adopt their system. In this, I could not concur, but the Rector has the good sense to see, that much good may be done even without acting entirely on his principles : and, as the master appears a very respectable man, I hope all will go on amicably and well on mine.

Long as my life has been, there are few in which so many important events have taken place, and so many revolutions been effected ; and whilst almost all other countries have suffered under terrors and disorders, by no means yet terminated, ours has remained comparatively happy and contented. Two circumstances have principally contributed to this ; the passing of the reform bill, and the putting an end to the monopoly of corn. The first measure could hardly have been peaceably carried, had not an advantage been taken of a foolish King, who happened, for one Session, to fancy himself a reformer, which he soon repented. The measure was certainly a revolution, as it entirely changed the constitution, and placed almost all power in the House of Commons ; for it must be evident, that now neither the King nor the Peers can persevere

in resisting any measure in which the House of Commons is supported by the people : but the march of public opinion, and the events abroad, made the measure absolutely necessary ; and as the aristocracy have great influence in the elections, the result is by no means democratical. It is curious to consider the changes which have taken place in the opinions and conduct of individuals. In the days of George III., and his Minister, Pitt, the greater part of the country gentlemen, and a still larger portion of the clergy, were violent tories ; intolerant to the utmost degree, and rating very low the loyalty, and even religion, of those who were opposed to them. They carried their politics into their courts of justice, where great partiality very frequently prevailed. How have these evils been abated ? In some measure, undoubtedly, by a great diminution of political rancour ; but, I think, far more by the salutary influence of the public press.

In my immediate neighbourhood, and still more in many other parts of the kingdom, there are many laborers without employment : this is, unfortunately, an increasing evil, because the population advances in numbers far beyond any advantageous means of supporting them. What can be the remedy ?—what the

consequences ? Emigration, whether at the public charge, or by individual exertion, is utterly inadequate. This must soon become a great political problem.

Walking in the neighbourhood of Tours, I asked my way of a peasant. "Ou allez vous, Monsieur ?" "Je m'en vais a Tours." *An I J'y vais.*" This was a known phrase, and the only remnant of the English language in that country.

I was thought foolish by some, for planting, at the age of thirty, trees, which I could never live to see in perfection. I have continued planting all my life ; and now, at the age of eighty-three, am planting the newly discovered trees from China and Japan. Many that I have planted are now well grown, and handsome ; and have afforded me much pleasure even in their infancy. The soil, so well adapted to trees, has greatly encouraged me. A grove of cedars of Lebanon is much admired. With my present experience, I could have selected a spot on the river where I might have formed a beautiful domain, with half the expence which this has cost me ; true, I should have had every tree to plant, but that has also been the case here ; however, I have made a convenient home, and must be satisfied with it.

The brave Hungarians, claiming only the
 August, 1849. enjoyment of the constitution and
 liberties, which, till now, had been
 always respected, successfully opposed the in-
 vasion of Austria, but were obliged to yield to
 the intervention of Russia. Abandoned as
 they were by Prussia and Germany, it is well
 they have reserved themselves for better times ;
 for, surely, despotism cannot always be pre-
 dominant over Europe.

Timothy Brecknock was the representative
 of an ancient family allied to mine. He in-
 herited a competent estate, which he very soon
 dissipated : he practised at the bar, exhibited
 some cleverness, and much more profligacy.
 A man being tried for a highway robbery, the
 prosecutor declared that he thoroughly recog-
 nised his features, having been robbed by him
 on a moonlight night. Almanacks instantly
 appeared in court, proving that on the night
 in question there was no moon. The man was
 acquitted, and it was immediately afterwards
 discovered that the Almanacks were false :
 they had been printed by Brecknock's means.
 Fitzgerald, of Clare, imprisoned his father, and
 stood a siege in which a soldier was killed.
 He advertised for a Lawyer who could get
 him out of the scrape : Brecknock undertook

the task, and succeeded ; by what means, I know not. After this, the pair were inseparable. Fitzgerald stood candidate for his county : his only chance of success was by removing his opponent ; accordingly he had him apprehended by a warrant, ordering those who conveyed him to put him to death if a rescue were attempted. Another party of Fitzgerald's made a shew of a rescue, and the prisoner was killed. For this atrocity, Fitzgerald and Brecknock were condemned and executed. At the gallows, Fitzgerald showed signs of fear ; Brecknock called to him to behave like a man, and died himself at the age of ninety-four, having first repeated the Lord's Prayer in Greek.

My father, and his brother, Sir Richard, had offered to bring up their only child, but the parents could not consent to the only condition, that they should never see him more. Afterwards, when probably pressed by poverty, they offered to give up the boy, but it was too late, he was supposed to be then contaminated by their contact : they left him at the door of my Uncle, in Grosvenor Square, with a note saying he would be lost if they rejected him, as he could not know what was become of them. The boy was frightened by a black porter, dropped the note, and ran away to his parents,

behind the nearest corner. Brecknock, at one time, pretended to be a quaker, at another, a jew. We have never heard what became of the boy.

My menagerie has been, lately, greatly increased, and I am believed to be more successful in rearing animals than others ; in fact, I know of no other considerable private collections, except Lord Derby's and Lord Fitzwilliam's. I possess at present llamas, alpacas, nylghaus, guonacos, Indian antelopes, Virginian deer, long-tailed lemurs, agoutis, common porcupines, hog deer, jerboas, and kangaroos, (*macropus major*) *macropus bennettii*, *bettongia pencillata*, armadillos, Angora rabbits, and capybaras.

Lord Clive had a large serpent which lived on the most friendly terms with his family. Not liking the noise of the siege of Madras, it passed through the camp of the besiegers in the night, and reached the forests. When the siege was raised, it most unexpectedly returned to Lord Clive's house. He brought it home to England, with a large stock of poultry, &c., for its subsistence on the voyage, but it could not bear our climate, and died the first winter.

Geological discoveries inform us, that there was a period when the greater part of the quad-

rupeds were marsupias. Of those that possess that peculiarity there are now very few in the old world ; but in Australia nearly all are so : this, at first, would suggest the idea that Australia alone had not recovered from a former condition ; yet, the atmosphere is the same with that of the rest of the world, and must have always been so ; nor does it appear that the animals there, in other respects, bear a nearer relation to the extinct species than those of the other parts of the globe.

George Foster is gone to India, a very great loss to my society as he spent much of his time with me ; his amiable character, good sense, and good spirits, made him an universal favorite with all ranks.

My friend Sir Henry Chamberlain, natural son of Henry Fane, married early without the knowledge of his father, and was in narrow circumstances : a well-dressed man offered him £1000 for his new born son—it was refused. Precisely at that time, Lady Dudley and Ward just become a widow, and not very young, had declared herself pregnant ; apparently disappointed of obtaining a child in England, she prepared to go abroad, but the successor obtained a writ “*ne exeat regno.*” She soon after declared she was not pregnant.

Wombwell, who perambulates the country with a large collection of exotic animals, had a niece, very handsome, of modest and graceful demeanour, such as to attract the favorable notice of the Queen. She was very fond of the animals, and I have seen her, apparently, on the best terms with them. One day, entering a den in which were a lion and a tiger, she either excited the jealousy of the tiger, or unknowingly offended him; he flew at her, and mortally wounded her.

The agricultural interest is making great efforts to obtain protection, which, as far as it goes is monopoly: their exertions are not likely to be successful. It is true, the unrestricted importation of foreign corn may have the effect of considerably lowering the rents of land. This, inconvenient to many, would be ruinous to those whose estates are deeply mortgaged; but they must be content to suffer the evils their imprudence, or that of their families, has occasioned. Parliament cannot arrest the progress of improvement to save them. Though opposed to the principle of protection, I should be glad to see a duty of five shillings on foreign corn, which I think would be a reasonable object of revenue, whilst it would indirectly afford some relief to agriculture.

The price of wheat continues, at present, to fall, partly, perhaps, from alarm, partly from unusually productive crops throughout the world : it is too soon to calculate on what will be the ultimate average price.

We frequently hear of men with illustrious or respectable names, without any known connexion with the families to which those names belong. I believe these sometimes come from the foundling hospital. Many years ago I happened to know, that three children were there named in the same day, Thomas Mowbray, Samuel Whitbread, and Robert Heron : had Thomas Mowbray, or a son of his, risen to great eminence, his descent would then have probably been traced from the family of the Duke of Norfolk.

Two or three years ago, the then Curate of Claypole, supported by the Rector, refused to baptize children born in the workhouse, and not provided with sponsors : on my appealing to the Bishop, he agreed with them and approved their refusal. I then remonstrated, urging that the appointment of sponsors was, probably, necessary, in the early stages of Christianity ; but that now it was an unnecessary though respectable form ; and that I had never heard of an instance of any sponsor

interfering with the education of the child. The Bishop, (Dr. Kaye,) had the liberality to acknowledge the justice of this argument, and I was informed that no further objection would be made.

The low price of wheat has created great excitement, and the farmers appear to think that it must be permanent; contrary, in my opinion, to what we may expect from our experience: the price of corn must always depend upon the harvests at home and abroad, though the average will be somewhat lower from the abolition of the duties. In my Union, a resolution was passed by a great majority to lower the salaries of our officers, fifteen per cent. As they were by no means overpaid, the Commissioners negatived the resolution, and some of the Guardians attributed this to my influence; the consequence was, that at the election of officers, some of the most factious intrigued to oust me from the chair; but finding this impracticable, they satisfied themselves with rejecting one of the vice-chairmen, and electing one of their own party: this is of little consequence as I am rarely absent.

In this month, I determined to make a visit
 May, to Paris. G. Fitzwilliam and G.
 1850. Heron went with me: we remained

there eight days, received the utmost kindness from our Ambassador and the Pescatores, and the greatest civility from every body. We passed our time very agreeably in visiting the assembly, the theatres, the palaces, and all that was worth seeing. I was rather surprised to find Versailles and all the other palaces in the highest order and preservation. As it was fifty-nine years since I had been there, I found much that was new, particularly the triumphal arch, the column of Napoleon, and the beautiful Rue de Rivoli. At my age, the expedition was thought by some rather remarkable, and certainly it began under bad auspices, for in leaving the passport office, at London bridge, my foot slipped, and I fell headlong down the stone staircase ; but to the surprise of G. Fitzwilliam and many spectators, I arose without the slightest injury. If my health continue, I shall go again in October.

Our Queen has now been long enough on the throne to prove that she is an excellent constitutional Sovereign ; and her marriage is sufficiently productive to exclude for ever the dynasty of the Guelphs. That family furnished us with five Monarchs, the two first were stupid and vulgar. George III. pleased the people by his intolerant bigotry, and they did not

resent his uncompromising and cruel persecution of all free principles. His successor was a selfish and extravagant profligate ; but the last of the race, by far the best, was a weak well meaning man ; fortunately, however, the developement of public opinion, and the establishment of free institutions, its natural consequence, has rendered the personal qualities of our Kings of far less importance than in former times. A bad King would now create little sensation, because he would have no power ; he would find no Minister to obey his orders ; or, if he succeeded in obtaining one, that Minister would be very soon ejected.

The people of England are eminently aristocratical, and therefore conservative ; I do not mean in the party use of the word, but as opposed to any organic change : in fact, they have never instigated any of our revolutions, or even claimed their own rights, but have condescended to accept the exercise of them from the exertions of the higher orders. During all the late agitations of Europe, they have shown no excitement : they are in opinion intolerant, and I believe the majority, if appealed to, would never have voted Catholic emancipation ; still, their intolerance must have greatly abated, as they submitted to the

measure without much opposition. They have a great respect for the nobility and their families, which is shown in the eagerness with which all the Peerages annually published are purchased. This is not the case in any other country ; but neither are the nobility of any other country to be compared with ours, in character or in consequence ; a circumstance in great measure to be ascribed to their political situation, held up, as they are, to public view. The worst feature in the present view of our situation, is our finances ; but it is to be hoped, that may, at length, be remedied without a struggle.

The state of Europe is by no means satisfactory. In Russia stands aloft the demon of despotism, ready, as far as his power extends, to extinguish every spark of freedom, wherever he can find it : the inability of Austria to subdue the rising liberties of Hungary without his assistance, has made her subservient to Russia ; Germany is divided ; France, in her present state, cannot be relied upon ; and Prussia, though well disposed, will not dare anything alone. But a day may change this precarious situation of affairs : one act of vigor in France would reverse it. My reliance is on Lord Palmerston, whom I consider as the ablest foreign Minister we ever had.

The Pope has been so ill advised as to publish a very foolish bull. Thinking that a Pope might be allowed to talk nonsense, like other people, I was of opinion, at first, it would be best to treat it with silence and contempt ; but considering the formal manner in which it was sent forth, I believe the reception it has met with was proper and necessary. It has produced a letter from Lord John Russell, written with his usual ability and good sense ; and a good speech from Lord Fitzwilliam. I refused to sign the address from this county on the subject for two reasons : first, because I will never be concerned in an address which does not emanate from a public meeting ; and secondly, because it contained what appeared to me untrue,—that it tended to endanger the Queen's dominion.

Went to Paris with my old friend, G. Fitzwilliam, and my new one, James
 October. Wilde. London cannot compare with Paris. The architecture of the palaces there, though far from perfect, is much superior to ours, and the internal decorations are superb and in the best taste. In pictures only, they fail ; in the revolutions and the wars they lost the greater part of those by the old masters, and their places are supplied by wretched daubs.

We have nothing in London to compare with the Place de la Concorde, or the Rue de Rivoli. I saw Madam Rachell both at Paris and in London; she is a good actress, but her chief excellence is the representation of dying, with all the agonies prolonged, for which she has studied at the hospitals. Such is the present strange taste in both Capitals.

Those who, like me, live to a great age, must make up their minds to pay the cruel tax imposed upon it, that of surviving our friends; my home society is just now terribly mutilated, by the loss of its chief ornament, Mrs. E. Fane.

I have printed, for private distribution, my
 January 1, Diary, from the year 1812 inclusive
 1851. to this time. As it seems in request,
 I shall now be tempted to publish it corrected, enlarged, and continued.

About the year 1796 or 7, the Duke of Portland wished to bring in his son, Lord William, for the county of Nottingham, but it was necessary to find a seat for his brother, Lord Edward, who then sat for the county. He accordingly purchased of Sir John Lister, a seat at Clitheroe, for £4000, but when the time arrived for payment he had no money; he had just then joined Pitt, and asked Sir

J. L. if a peerage would satisfy him, and Sir J. accepting it, became Lord Ribblesdale. This anecdote was told me by Mr. Groom, who acted as agent for both parties.

On the death of my friend, Charles Mainwaring, his effects were sold by auction; there were many rare and curious articles, chiefly purchased at the sale of the Duke of Buckingham. I became possessor of the signet ring of Napoleon; of a very large and perfect Buhl table; two small bronze statues of Voltaire and Rousseau; and a small Bombay cabinet. Also of a law suit, which having lost, a carved press and a poculum, which I never bought, have been imposed upon me.

R. Bromley's death having created a vacancy for the county of Nottingham, I attended the nomination and declaration of the poll at Newark. The candidates were both tories, but I voted for Lord Newark, against a Southwell Attorney; we were beaten by a small majority. The oratory was little and bad, not excepting my own. I had reserved myself to answer the candidate, Barrow, but not being able to hear a word he said, I was disappointed.

A wise man at Peterborough proposed that a compliment should be paid to Lord Fitzwilliam, on his completing his 80th year. A

wiser man advised it should first be ascertained whether he would like it ; on being asked, he said, "Nonsense, do they suppose there is any pleasure in being 80." The only pleasure I derive from it is the negative one that I am free from pain, that I have not lost my activity, and, as far as I am a judge, my faculties.

I have no doubt that the Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain," alludes to perjury in a court of justice.—See Voltaire, vol. 29, p. 221.

C'est usurper la vie que se borner a ne pas nuire, les morts en font autant, et n'exige rien pour cela.—Prince de Ligne, vol. 2, p. 172.

Honorius was without passions, and, therefore, without talents.—Gibbon, vol. 3. On this ground Scarlett persuaded a jury to set aside Hibbert ; yet, W. Pitt was supposed to be without passions.

Spent a week in London, found political society in a strange and novel state ; no party has a majority in Parliament, and none possesses the confidence of the public. There appears to be a pretty general opinion that Parliament will be dissolved this Autumn, and the expectation often realizes itself. My opinion is known to be against the principle of protection, and though protection to agriculture

is dead and never can revive, yet its ghost meets me every where with a hostile countenance ; excluding me from every town or county in my neighbourhood. Anxious as I am, and always shall be, to be actively useful, this may prove a disappointment to me ; Newark is, perhaps, an exception to this, but there my place is occupied by a political friend, introduced by myself, and not likely to resign it.

Is the present low price of corn and cattle to continue ? We had it before when it has been only temporary : should it continue it will weigh heavily on those who have reduced their income by mortgages or other debts.

The new Great Northern Railroad will produce great advantage to me, I shall sell eleven acres of land at a high price ; shall have a station for all purposes within a mile of my house ; and shall have to bring my coals one mile instead of six, saving also the turnpike. My tenants must also derive considerable benefit from it.

It frequently happens that men who have exercised a sound judgment during their lives, have become timid bigots at its close ; and those who either from interest or from honest credulity are inclined to uphold bigotry, chose to consider the opinions of men, when their

faculties are degraded by disease and the fear of death, as superior to their judgment when in the vigor of health.

In no former period of even far greater length than my life, have so many astonishing events taken place. In the arts, the use of gas, steam, and electricity with its consequences, in itself a revolution. In political history, the prodigious rise of Napoleon, which shook the world ; his sudden fall from one unaccountable error—the invasion of Russia in winter—the overthrow of the most ancient dynasty in the world ; and above all, the content and happiness of this country unmoved, or if at all, beneficially moved, by all that has passed around it. But the foreign nations which have aspired to freedom, have not succeeded ; the ultimate fate of France is still uncertain. Poland has long been annihilated ; Hungary is crushed ; and Italy, incapable of union, has lost the only opportunity afforded it by the gallant, perhaps not judicious, King of Sardinia.

Not knowing that the male nylghau was at liberty, I went into his paddock, when he came out of his shed and attacked me furiously. He appeared to attempt to rip me up with his horns, but only ripped up my waistcoat ; as the gate

opened towards me, I could not get away, and therefore defended myself with a very strong walking stick ; in the mean time, the keeper, in the next paddock, puzzled him by shouting very loudly, and I escaped.

The nobility, in most parts of Europe, are at a discount ; not so with us, here they have no privileges but such as are useful to the country. Except the peer himself, his family are on a level with the people ; and, besides, the peerage belongs to the people, and is within the hopes and reach of all whose abilities or services can claim it.

The baronetage, invented by a needy Sovereign to raise money, without privilege or influence, or any connection with the constitution, is an unworthy excrescence.

A miracle is an act in contradiction to the regular and natural march of events, it must therefore be the act of the Supreme Being. Is it probable he should often thus contradict his own laws ?

As the approaching general election is not
 May. likely to include me, and I shall then

have completed my 86th year, I may consider my parliamentary life as concluded. After the loss of friends and relations, and of one dearer to me than either, I cannot expect

happiness, but I may *feel* consolations. Besides, the kindness of my remaining friends, and the health which I still enjoy, I can reflect on my conduct, both public and private, with honest satisfaction ; and as in nearly forty years spent in the House of Commons, I have never received or asked any favor from any Administration, I think the merit of disinterestedness cannot be refused me.

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